



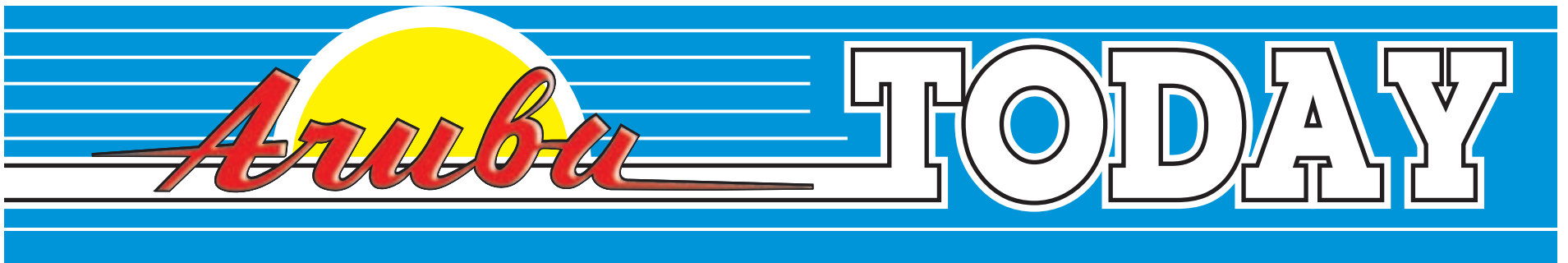
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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, December 13, 2013

INTERPRETER SAW ANGELS

ALAN COWELL

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PRETORIA, South Africa - A supposed sign language interpreter accused of being a fraud after he stood beside President Barack Obama and other global dignitaries at Nelson Mandela's memorial service told a series of interviewers Thursday that he was a schizophrenic with a tendency toward violence and had seen angels descending as he worked



Thamsanqa Jantjie, 34, whom experts have labeled an impostor, in Soweto, Johannesburg on Tuesday, Dec. 10. (S. Crowley/ New York Times)

in the stadium where the event was held. The admissions by the man, Thamsanqa Jantjie, 34, whom sign language experts have labeled an impostor, added one more bizarre turn to a story that has raised questions about the security at the memorial ceremony and spread a pall of distraction and embarrassment over one of the most solemn moments in South Africa's modern history.

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Shoppers rest on chairs in the Fashion Show mall in Las Vegas. The National Retail Federation estimates that sales over the four-day 2013 holiday weekend including Thanksgiving declined 2.9 percent from last year, marking the first drop since the group began tracking the figure in 2006. Overall spending for November and December is still expected to increase 3.9, but whether that plays out remains to be seen.

(SAP Photo/John Locher)

Holiday Shopping Spree Not For Everyone

**ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Many Americans appear to be watching the annual holiday spending ritual from the sidelines this year. Money is still tight for some. Others are fed up with commercialism of the holidays. Still others are waiting for bigger bargains. And people like Lark-Marie Anton Menchini are more thoughtful about their purchases. The New York pub-

lic relations executive says in the past she'd buy her children up to eight Christmas gifts each, but this year they're getting three apiece. The leftover money is going toward their college savings. "We told them Santa is ... being very conscious of how many gifts he puts on his sleigh," Menchini, 36, says. Used to be, stores counted on Americans to fill their shopping baskets during the holiday season. But this year, some are scaling back —

or abstaining completely — from the year-end spending frenzy that's a hallmark of American culture. There aren't reliable figures on how many people plan to shop during the holidays. But early data points to a shift in holiday spending. The National Retail Federation estimates that sales during the start to the official start to season — the four-day weekend that began on Thanksgiving Day in late November — dropped 2.9 percent from last year

to \$57.4 billion. That would mark the first decline in the seven years the trade group has tracked spending. And during the week afterward — which ended on Sunday — sales fell another 2.9 percent compared with a year ago, according to data tracker ShopperTrak, which did not give dollar amounts. Meanwhile, the number of shoppers in stores plunged nearly 22 percent.

Continued on Page 4

Grass-roots economic protests spread across Italy

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

SOAVE, Italy (AP) — For the first time in the five years of Italy's economic crisis, grass-roots protests expressing frustration if not deep anger at the political class are spreading across Italy. Students are marching through cities and towns, small business owners are blocking highway entrances and demonstrators have even tried to close the border with France. Their singular aim: To send all the politicians home in hopes of ending the coun-

try's malaise. employment rise to a post-war high of 12.5 percent, with youth unemployment running at a record 40 percent. These protests are not organized by any political movement or labor union, but are erupting from a collection of disaffected workers, business owners and youth who feel the nation's politicians and institutions do not have a solution to the record slump that began in 2011.

"We all have sat at negotiating tables with these scoundrels. Nothing comes of it. They only want to pac-

told The Associated Press. "These are protests that are beyond the unions. This is very dangerous because they envelop a huge anger against institutions."

On Wednesday, police used tear gas to disband demonstrators trying to block the border to France at the northwestern town of Ventimiglia.

Tensions have erupted into scuffles in the northern city of Turin, where soccer hooligans have at times mixed with the protesters. Some demonstrators have even intimidated business own-

bellion against the national and European institutions." He cautioned Italian politicians and bureaucrats against joining the protests, in which he said five people had been arrested and 55 cited.

James Walston, a political science professor at American University of Rome, said the protests were still "very inchoate." Still, Walston said he was surprised it has taken Italians so long to react to the persistent economic crisis, noting the country's previous history of violent protests.

Labor group sees progress at major Apple supplier

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

A labor group monitoring three Chinese factories that make iPhones and other Apple products says once-oppressive working conditions have steadily improved in the last 18 months, but more must be done to reduce the amount of overtime that employees work.

The audit released Thursday by the Fair Labor Association represents the final assessment in a process that started last year at plants run in China by Apple's largest supplier, Foxconn.

Reports depicting the Foxconn plants as inhumane sweatshops prompted Apple Inc. to hold its foreign contractors to higher standards. The Cupertino, Calif., company joined the Fair Labor Association last year as part of a commitment to improve the situation. Apple is the only major tech company in a 14-year-old labor group that also includes clothing makers, shoe makers and other manufacturers promising to curb abuses in overseas factories.

The report concluded Foxconn factories in Longhua, Chengdu and Guanlan had reached virtually all the goals set out in a plan adopted last year.

"We are proud of the progress we have made together with the FLA and Foxconn," Apple said in a statement. "Our suppliers must live up to the toughest standards in the industry if they want to keep doing business with Apple."

Excessively long work schedules remain a problem, however. The FLA says more than half of the 170,000 employees at the Foxconn factories exceeded China's legal limit of 36 monthly overtime hours from March through October.

Foxconn plants in Longhua and Chengdu consistently limited workers' time on the clock below 60 hours per week during the review period, according to the FLA. □



Students clash with police during a protest in Rome, Italy, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. For the first time in the five years of Italy's economic crisis, grass-roots protests expressing frustration if not bald anger at the political class are spreading through Italy.

(AP Photo/Daniele Leone, Lapresse)

ify people," Badii said. "We decided no one can go negotiate with politicians. They have to go away, all of them. The state must be reset."

While it is early to gauge the potential impact of the protests, observers have expressed concern that the deep mistrust of all of Italy's institutions being expressed could transform the demonstrations into something much more dangerous. "They are anarchic. There is not a unified organization," Stefano Folli, a political analyst at Il Sole 24 Ore,

ers into shutting down by threatening to break their windows, according to Italian news reports.

Similarly, protests in the southern town of Bisceglie forced stores to close for three days, including a local deli whose owner told Sky TG24 news that he lost money because some prepared food had gone bad. Interior Minister Angelino Alfano told lawmakers Thursday there is growing concern among law enforcement that "the combination of social unrest could provoke a drift toward re-

"The weakness of the government is why it is now, and the instability that goes with it. But it could have been anything. It is just surprising it has taken so long," Walston said.

Italy's more populist-minded politicians have shown tentative steps toward embracing the protests — but it's not clear that embrace would be returned. Beppe Grillo, the leader of the opposition 5 Star Movement that shares the send-the-bums-packing mentality, urged police not to interfere with the protesters. □

16 arrested in breakup of a high-end auto theft ring

MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - The car thieves plied their trade with a certain finesse. No windows were broken or doors pried. Rather, they focused on stealing the high-tech keys of prestigious brands like Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Bentley and Porsche. Then they simply started the ignition and drove away. The thieves, who operated in New York City and the surrounding region for the last three years, stole 311 cars worth an estimated \$15.5 million, the police said. This week, the New York City Police shut them down, arresting 16 people. Two others remained at large. One of the suspects, Albert Natanov, 29, was also a major distributor of cocaine in the region, the police said. Natanov, of Flushing, Queens, was known to drive a Lamborghini, Bentley or Mercedes S550, arranging deals on his \$6,000 gold-plated iPhone, the police said.

If a high-end car was stolen in the last few years, there was certainly a chance that this group was involved. Car theft in New York, once a seemingly intractable scourge, has declined significantly. There were nearly 150,000 thefts in 1990, according to police statistics. So far this year, there have been 6,797.

As crime rates have dropped, so too it seems has the caution of car owners. Some of the thefts by the gang arrested this week occurred when drivers left vehicles idling in a driveway or parking lot, the police said.

In other cases, the thieves plucked cars right out of the lots of dealerships after stealing the keys, the police said. They would also target valets and sometimes shipments of cars, jumping behind the wheel while the vehicles were sitting, keys in the ignition.

At their most innovative, the thieves would steal one of a pair of identical keys from a car rental company and place a GPS device in the matching car, the police said. Then they would wait for the car to be rented and track it down.

These days, many high-end cars have sophisticated security systems that make it almost impossible to drive a vehicle without its specific set of keys, the police said. That has forced car thieves with expensive tastes to become more creative.

"The ring of thieves arrested in this case treated driveways, dealerships, parking lots and other locations like their personal showrooms," Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said in a statement. New York police detectives, he said, "brought these car thieves' operation to a screeching halt."

The thefts occurred in New York City and wealthy neighborhoods in New Jersey, Westchester County and Long Island, the authorities said.

The investigation into the thefts began in early 2012 after a tip about suspicious cars from a vehicle inspection company called the Carco Group, the police said. Investigators then identified a shop in Queens that was providing fraudulent inspection records.

From there, the police, working with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, the Queens district attorney and the New York State Department of Financial services, unraveled a plot.

Each person had an assigned role, the authorities said. There were the thieves, like Emmanuel Mateo, 35, and Alexander Santiago, 37, both from the Bronx, who would steal the cars and pass them on to "taggers," like Henry Pena, 35 of the Bronx, who supplied new vehicle identification numbers and license plates, the police said. Then brokers, like Victor Pacheco, 34, of the Bronx, or Ronald Dalonzo, 48, of Queens, would acquire the vehicles and sell them, for \$10,000 to \$25,000, to black market dealers. Natanov, the title washer, would provide forged titles for the cars, according to the police. □

Republicans back US budget deal; deficits to rise

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-dominated House of Representatives was expected to pass a compromise spending plan designed to prevent a repeat of October's costly government shutdown and ease automatic budget cuts that would otherwise deplete the Pentagon and domestic agencies for an-

Obama would then have to sign the bill into law, which was seen as likely.

The modest deal would continue federal deficit spending, upsetting small-government, low-tax tea party Republicans. Democrats, meanwhile, remained unhappy that the spending plan fails to extend jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed. The cutoff for those bene-

saying they were seeking to further their own objectives, not those of the Republican Party or the country.

"Frankly, I think they're misleading their followers. I think they're pushing our members into places where they don't want to be. And frankly, I just think that they've lost all credibility," Boehner said at a news conference. "You know, one of them, they pushed



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio leaves a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013, where he vehemently rebuked conservative groups who oppose the pending bipartisan budget compromise struck by House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chair Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. Boehner said the GOP leadership has had enough tea party-driven intransigence in Congress and he doesn't care what they think.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

other year. The bipartisan measure's expected passage Thursday would be seen as crack in the wall of partisan gridlock that has gripped Congress through much of President Barack Obama's nearly five years in the White House.

As the House prepared to vote, Obama and many Democrats who control the Senate praising the budget deal negotiated over several months by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012, and Democrat Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray. The measure requires Senate approval as well, which was expected next week.

fits would hit Dec. 28 in the midst of the Christmas-New Year holiday season.

Ryan said Thursday that the spending deal moved a divided government "in the right direction" and was possible because he and Murray decided not to move into areas that are held as core beliefs by Republicans and Democrats. House Speaker John Boehner, who has a history of bowing to the far-right tea party faction of his party when pushed, has made a dramatic switch in the two days since the deal was announced.

Hours before the scheduled vote on the bill, Boehner repeatedly denounced tea party-aligned organizations for their opposition,

us into the fight to defund Obamacare and shut down the government," he said in an apparent reference to Heritage Action.

Heritage Action, Club for Growth and other groups have urged lawmakers to oppose the measure, some issuing their appeals before the legislation had been made public. The plan does not specifically raise taxes, an anathema to Republicans, but does raise money through increased government fees. It does not touch entitlement programs dear to Democrats, including spending on Medicare health insurance for older Americans, Medicaid for the poor and the Social Security pension system that kicks in at retirement age. □

Holiday Shopping Spree Not For Everyone

Continued from front

The numbers are sobering for retailers, which depend on making up to 40

percent of their revenue in the last two months of the year. They suggest shifts in the attitudes of U.S. shoppers that could force stores to reshape their strategies. Stores slashed prices during the recession to get financially strapped shoppers in stores and to better

compete with the cheaper prices of online retailers like Amazon. But shoppers got used to those deals and now won't buy without them. The constant discounting has blunted the "wow" factor of sales during the holidays.

For instance, some retailers were offering discounts of 40 percent or more on the day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday. But Jennifer Ambrosch, 40, was unimpressed with the "deals" she saw on that day. "There's a lot of hype, but ... the deals aren't that good," Ambrosch, an accountant, says.

Overall, the retail federation expects spending in November and December to rise 3.9 percent to \$602.1 billion. But to get that growth, analysts say retailers will need to discount heavily, which eats away profits. There are signs that profits for the quarter that includes the holiday sea-

son are being hurt by the discounting. Wal-Mart and American Eagle Outfitters are among 47 retailers that have slashed their outlooks for either the quarter or the year. Overall, retailers' earnings growth is expected to be up 2.1 percent, according to research firm Retail Metrics. That would be the worst performance since profit fell 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2009 when the country was in a recession.

The recession not only taught Americans to expect bargains. It also showed them that they could make do with less. And in the economic recovery, many have maintained that frugality.

So whereas in a better economy, Americans would make both big and small purchases, in this economy they're being more thoughtful and making choices about what to buy. □



Shoppers rest on chairs in the Fashion Show mall in Las Vegas. The National Retail Federation estimates that sales over the four-day 2013 holiday weekend including Thanksgiving declined 2.9 percent from last year, marking the first drop since the group began tracking the figure in 2006. Overall spending for November and December is still expected to increase 3.9, but whether that plays out remains to be seen.

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CASINO AND SHOPS

US hits firms over Iran; sanctions debate goes on

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States targeted more than a dozen companies and people on Thursday for allegedly evading sanctions against Iran, an effort by the Obama administration to show it will enforce existing law even as it presses Congress to hold off on additional measures while world powers pursue a comprehensive nuclear deal with Tehran. The action freezes the U.S. assets of firms in Panama, Singapore, Ukraine and elsewhere for maintaining covert business with Iran's national tanker company. Other companies involved directly in the proliferation of material useful for weapons of mass destruction also were blacklisted from the U.S. market. American citizens are banned from any transactions with the listed individuals and firms. The announcement by the Treasury and State departments comes as the administration is furiously lobbying

lawmakers to refrain from any new package of sanctions on Iran after last month's interim nuclear agreement in Geneva. As part of the deal, the U.S. agreed to no new nuclear-related financial penalties against Tehran for six months, and Iran's foreign minister has warned that any such action could kill the diplomatic effort. Still, many Republicans and Democrats in Congress have called for even tougher measures to raise the pressure further on the Islamic republic, despite the administration's pleas for patience.

On Thursday, the Obama administration received important support from Sen. Tim Johnson, a Democrat and chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, which had been seen as a likely starting point for any new sanctions from Congress. "The administration's request for a diplomatic pause is reasonable," Johnson said at an Iran hearing he chaired. "A new round of U.S. sanctions now could rupture the unity of the international coalition against Iran's nuclear program. Existing sanctions will continue to bite, and to bite hard."

U.S. officials have stressed that most U.S. oil, banking and commercial restrictions remain in place despite the deal last month,



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., walks to a closed-door briefing on the recent agreement reached between Iran and western powers on Iran's nuclear program, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

which eased \$7 billion in sanctions on Iran for a series of nuclear concessions. Secretary of State John Kerry argued earlier

this week that Iran would still lose \$30 billion as a result of economic penalties that stay in force under the interim deal. □

Ex- teacher pleads guilty to child porn charges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former private school teacher who was once featured on the FBI's list of most wanted fugitives pleaded guilty Thursday to child pornography charges and faces decades in prison.

Eric Justin Toth, 31, was captured in Nicaragua in April, ending a five-year period on the run that began after images of child pornography were found on a school camera that had been in his possession. His arrest came one year after the FBI publicized his disappearance by adding him to its Most Wanted list, where he filled a vacancy created by Osama bin Laden's death, and offered a reward for information leading to his capture. He pleaded guilty to producing child pornography, identity theft and misusing a Social Security number. The recommended sentencing range is between

22 and 30 years in prison, according to the terms of his plea agreement. Toth's only remarks in court were "yes" and "no" answers to standard questions from a judge, and at one point he corrected the age of one of the child victims to whom prosecutors had referred.

The ex-teacher admitted in court to crimes of child pornography that prosecutors say spanned years and multiple states and involved secret videos and hidden cameras.

"The guy was on the run for five years. It's hard to say he accepted responsibility, but he did acknowledge his conduct early on, and obviously that's something we look at when we are crafting a plea agreement," U.S. Attorney Ron Machen said in an interview. Prosecutors revealed new details about the scope of the abuse in court Thursday. They say the college-edu-

cated and computer savvy Toth took photographs and videos of a sleeping male camper while working as a counselor at a Wisconsin summer camp and, over the next two years, filmed himself undressing or sexually fondling a student of his.

He also installed hidden cameras disguised as air fresheners in a bathroom at the Beauvoir School, a private elementary school where he worked as a third-grade teacher. The recordings captured 15 children under the age of 10.

Toth was escorted off campus after school administrators found images of child pornography on a school camera that had been in his possession. He took off before police could arrest him, using aliases and stolen identities to evade capture over the next five years as he lived in places including Texas, Arizona and, finally, Nicaragua. □

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Legal marijuana sales will be spotty in Colorado

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Legal marijuana sales in the state of Colorado are set to start on Jan. 1, or so the law says. Knowing when the recreational pot shops will actually open, however, is anyone's guess. The state's 160 hopeful pot shops are so mired in red tape and confusion that no one knows yet when or if they'll be allowed to open. Not a single shop will clear state and local licensing requirements until about Dec. 27. Colorado last year legalized the possession of up to an ounce of pot by adults over 21, with voters deciding to set up systems of state-licensed growers, processors and sellers. The measures put state officials in the difficult position of crafting rules for a fledgling industry barred by federal law for more than seven decades. Even as marijuana entrepreneurs are expanding

operations, pouring concrete and planning tentative grand openings, they're still navigating a maze of regulations. Many of the applicants are still waiting on inspections, local zoning hearings and background checks before finding out whether they've been approved to open their doors to adults over 21. "There might be a lot of disappointed people on New Year's Day," Elliott said. Marijuana tourism companies that already lead bring-your-own pot tours in Colorado are putting off new trips, unsure where they'd bring tourists looking to buy legal pot, not just smoke it. Even in towns hoping to have at least a shop or two open, there will be no 12:01 a.m. pot sales. Marijuana shops have mandated opening hours, not before 8 a.m. anywhere in Colorado. The regulatory delays are testing the patience of

many in the industry. Ryan Cook, general manager of a chain of stores called The Clinic, is spending his days not prepping

a grand opening plan but going to Denver's zoning, planning and fire departments to check on permits. "You guys have put me

Rocky Mountain Remedies owner Kevin Fisher said local permitting delays mean his shop won't be ready for recreational pot sales until



Elle Beau, an employee of The Clinic, a Denver-based dispensary with several outlets, reaches into a display case for marijuana while helping a customer, in Denver. The Clinic is among the roughly 150 medical marijuana dispensaries hoping to begin selling to recreational users when it becomes legal to sell on Jan. 1, 2014. The state's hopeful pot shops are so mired in red tape and confusion that no one knows yet when or if they'll be allowed to open. Not a single shop will clear state and local licensing requirements until about Dec. 27.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



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through the ringer," Cook joked after picking up the permits, just part of some \$300,000 in various permit and license fees The Clinic's six shops will pay to various state and local agencies this year. Julie Postlethwait, spokeswoman for the state Marijuana Enforcement Division, said state pot licenses can't be issued until local governments sign off on potential stores. Cities and counties have in some cases changed fire codes for pot operations, added new signage or zoning requirements or instituted new fees they say they'll need to regulate the industry. In Steamboat Springs,

Jan. 8. He said he's hoping the small delay will be quickly forgotten. "I don't think anyone is too upset about waiting to do everything right," Fisher said. "So we open Jan. 8, 2014. That's a lot sooner than Jan 8, 2035, when I thought this might happen." □





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US Financial Front:

Fewer homes entered foreclosure path in November

ALEX VEIGA

AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The number of U.S. homes entering the path to foreclosure or winding up repossessed by lenders has fallen to levels not seen in more than six years.

While foreclosures remain a concern in select states, the trend is the latest sign foreclosures are becoming less of a national factor on the housing recovery and more of a state and metropolitan-area concern.

Lenders initiated foreclosure action against 52,826 U.S. homes in November, down 10 percent from the previous month and a drop of 32 percent from November last year, according to new data from foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac Inc.

The last time the tally of monthly foreclosure starts was lower was in December 2005, the firm said.

Foreclosure starts increased last month on an annual basis in 15 states, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Oregon.

While fewer homes entered the foreclosure pipeline in November, the number of homes completing the foreclosure process also declined. All told, lenders took back 30,461 homes last month, down 19 percent from October and a decline of 48 percent from November last year, RealtyTrac said. Overall, completed foreclosures sank to the lowest level since July 2007, the firm said.

The number of homes repossessed by banks increased on an annual basis in only five states: Delaware, Maryland, Connecticut, Maine and Iowa — all states where the courts must sign off on foreclo-

tures, a factor that typically draws out the process longer than in other states.

Some of the decline in foreclosure activity last month was due to a seasonal slowdown as the end of the year draws near. That could mean a bump in homes sold at auction or repossessed by banks early next year, said Daren Blomquist, a vice president at RealtyTrac.

"Regionally and locally, there are going to be some jumps in foreclosure numbers in 2014, but nothing we anticipate will threaten the housing recovery," Blomquist said. "It's very safe to say that the foreclosure crisis is over and behind us." The decline in foreclosures has come about as more homeowners are keeping up with their mortgage payments. At the same time, the U.S. housing market has emerged from a deep slump, aided by rising home prices, steady job growth and fewer troubled loans dating back to the housing-bubble days.

At the end of November, 734,205 U.S. homes were in some stage of the foreclosure process, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Another 503,577 homes were bank-owned, but not yet sold. That's down from 18 percent from November last year, the firm said.

Some 70 percent of all homes in some stage of foreclosure are tied to mortgages that were taken out between 2004 and 2008.

At their monthly pace through the first 11 months of the year, completed foreclosures are on track to total 470,000 this year, down 30 percent from last year, Blomquist said. □



A foreclosure sign blows in the wind in front of a home under foreclosure in Antioch, Calif. The number of U.S. homes entering the path to foreclosure or winding up repossessed by lenders has fallen to levels not seen in more than six years.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

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French President Hollande arrives in Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — France will help Brazil become one of 10 countries in the world able to build a high-performance super-computer, President Dilma Rousseff said Thursday following a meeting with French President Francois Hollande, who is in Brazil on a two-day state visit. Officials from the two countries signed an agreement for Brazilian and French companies to join forces to develop a new generation of high-performance computers, transferring technology to Brazil. The computer can be used for purposes such as weather forecasting or managing nuclear energy generation, Rousseff said. The cost was not mentioned, but local news media placed it at about \$41 million.

In his statement, Hollande said France supports a resolution that Brazil and Germany submitted to the United Nations General Assembly calling for an end to excessive electronic surveillance, data collection and other espionage tech-



French President Francois Hollande and Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, smile during a signing ceremony at the Planalto presidential palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. Hollande is on a two-day visit to Brazil.

(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

niques. "It is needed to protect our nations' sovereignties and our individual liberties," Hollande said. Recent reports revealed that France, Brazil and Germany have been targeted by eavesdropping

by the U.S. National Security Agency. Neither president mentioned Brazil's plan to purchase 36 jet fighters. The French-built Rafale fighter made by Dassault is one of

three Brazil is considering. The other two are Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet and the Gripen produced by Sweden's Saab. The two presidents also signed agreements call-

ing for construction and launching of a geostationary defense and communications satellite and the creation of a binational company formed by French naval company DCNS and Brazil's Odebrecht for the production of defense equipment. Jean-Jacques Kourliandsky, a researcher with the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Relations, said Hollande's visit was aimed at increasing the economic ties between the two countries. "As we know, France and Europe are not in a particularly brilliant economic situation at the moment, and for that reason France's new president, Francois Hollande, has set what he calls 'economic diplomacy' as his priority, looking in particular at Latin America," he said. "From the French point of view, Brazil is seen as a rising economic power that offers a number of interesting opportunities for French businesses." □

Putin defends Russian conservative values

Associated Press MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin cast Russia Thursday as a defender of conservative values against the "genderless and infertile" Western tolerance that he said equates good and evil. Putin's 70-minute state-of-the-nation address marked a determined effort to burnish Russia's image that has been dented by Western criticism of an anti-gay law which has stoked calls for a boycott of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, his pet project. Putin's speech also contained a strong warning to those abroad who he claimed were seeking a military edge over Russia — a clear nod at the U.S. effort to develop long range non-nuclear weapons that Russia sees as a threat to its nuclear deterrent. Russia has insisted that a law banning "propaganda of non-traditional relations" does not discriminate against gays, but gay rights

group say it has given a green light to harassment and intimidation. Without directly referring to the anti-gay law, Putin focused on upholding traditional family values, which he said were the foundation of Russia's greatness and a bulwark against "so-called tolerance — genderless and infertile." Putin's posture as a protector of conservative values and his scathing criticism of the West have been part of efforts to shore up his domestic support base of blue-collar workers, farmers and state employees against mounting criticism from the urban middle class. But his speech also was pitched to conservatives worldwide. "Many countries today are reviewing moral norms and erasing national traditions and distinctions between nationalities and cultures," Putin said.

"The society is now required to demonstrate not only the sensible recogni-

tion of everyone's right to freedom of conscience, political outlook and private life, but also the mandatory recognition of the equivalence of good and evil, no matter how odd that may seem." He argued that the "destruction of traditional values from the top" going on in other countries is "inherently undemocratic because it is based on abstract ideas and runs counter to the will of the majority of people." Without naming any specific country, he blasted "attempts to enforce allegedly more progressive development models" on other nations, saying they have led only to "decline, barbarity and big blood" in the Middle East and North Africa. In an apparent jab at the U.S., Putin said that Russia is not "seeking a superpower status or trying to claim a global or regional hegemony ... not trying to patronize or teach anyone." □



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North Korea executes leader's uncle as a traitor

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong Un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

The announcement came only days after Pyongyang announced through state media that Jang Song Thaek — long considered the country's No. 2 power — had been removed from all his posts because of allegations of corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and leading a "disolute and depraved life." The state news agency KCNA said a tribunal examined Jang's crimes, including "attempting to overthrow the state by all sorts of intrigues and despicable methods with a wild ambition to grab the supreme

power of our party and state."

The report called him "a traitor to the nation" and "worse than a dog."

Jang was seen as helping Kim Jong Un consolidate power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, two years ago. Jang was the latest and most significant in a series of personnel reshuffles that Kim has conducted in an apparent effort to bolster his power.

Some analysts see the purge as a sign of Kim Jong Un's growing confidence, but there has also been fear in Seoul that the removal of such an important part of the North's government — seen by outsiders as the leading supporter of Chinese-style economic reforms — could create dangerous instability or lead to a miscalculation or attack



People watch a TV news program showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, Jang Song Thaek, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea. North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong Un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

on the South. Tensions are still high on the Korean Peninsula following a torrent of threats in March

and April by Kim Jong Un's government against Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, including vows of missile and

nuclear strikes and warnings that Pyongyang would restart nuclear bomb fuel production. □

Winter storm pounding Mideast

JAMAL HALABY
Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Syrians at a sprawling refugee camp in northern Jordan scrambled to batten down their tents against torrential rains and high winds as a blustery winter storm battered parts of the Middle East for a second day Thursday. The storm, dubbed Alexa, already has pounded much of Lebanon and parts of northern Syria, pushing temperatures below zero and dumping snow and heavy rains. In some parts of Israel and the West Bank, meanwhile, government offices and schools shuttered to wait out the winter weather. Syrian refugees across the region, however, were among the hardest hit by the storm, which heaped

another layer of misery on the already grim existence of many of the more than 2 million Syrians who have fled the civil war raging in their homeland.

At Jordan's sprawling Zaatar refugee camp, which is home to 120,000 refugees, wind toppled at least 10 tents overnight, leaving residents vulnerable to freezing temperatures.

"It was very cold, windy and muddy and all I was able to think of is how to protect my wife and four children," said Ali Shatri, 36. He said aid workers quickly evacuated him and other families whose tents were blown down to other secure areas in the camp. Zaatar spokesman Wadah Hmoud said two days of heavy rains have flooded several areas of the camp. □

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EU promises more aid for Ukraine to sign EU deal

JIM HEINTZ

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Ukraine's deputy prime minister said Thursday his financially troubled country will soon sign a trade and cooperation deal with the EU after the bloc promised more aid to the former Soviet republic. Serhiy Arbuzov's comment came after a day of talks with EU Commissioner Stefan Fuele in Brussels, which were being closely watched by anti-government protesters in Ukraine who are demanding such a deal.

"Ukraine will soon sign this association agreement with the European Union," Arbuzov said. That would mark a U-turn by President Viktor Yanukovich, who had refused to close such a deal with the European Union at a summit in Lithuania two weeks ago.

Fuele said such an agreement would lead to "bigger and bigger" EU financial aid to Ukraine, and that the bloc has "made a clear commitment to match in our financial support the level of ambitions of our Ukrainian partners." Earlier Thursday, the bloc's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said that Yanukovich had told her he "intends to sign" at some point the trade and cooperation agreement he had rejected.

For weeks, activists have

been amassed in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, to protest Yanukovich's decision regarding the EU deal.

They are deeply concerned that he could instead sign an agreement to join a Russia-led customs union when he and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet next week.

Yanukovich appears to be in a tough corner. As protesters furious over his decision to turn away from the EU clog the center of Kiev, he appeared to be leaving his options open for the best deal he can get from his economically troubled country's powerful suitors.

Russia has put heavy pressure on Ukraine to join its bloc, which includes Belarus and Kazakhstan. Opponents say the bloc effectively tries to recreate the Soviet Union. □



Pro-European Union activists warm themselves near a bonfire and guard barricades on the main street Khreschatyk during a rally in Kiev, Ukraine, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. Ukraine was thrown into crisis last month when President Viktor Yanukovich suddenly backed away from a long-awaited political and economic agreement with the European Union, deciding to focus instead on restoring trade ties with Russia.

(AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

Kenya says all terrorists died in mall attack

TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — All the terrorists died in a recent attack on a Kenyan mall, contrary to suggestions in a New York Police Department report that some of the attackers could have escaped, a Kenyan official said Thursday. Somalia's al-Shabab militant group claimed responsibility for the Sept. 21

attack on Westgate Mall in Nairobi in which at least 67 people were killed.

Maj. Emmanuel Chirchir, a military spokesman, said that the bodies of the four attackers were discovered and dismissed suggestions, attributed to a New York Police Department report released this week, that some of the attackers could have escaped.

Chirchir dismissed the NYPD

report, saying it used secondary information and that NYPD did not have representatives among the group of western investigators assisting Kenya with the probe.


At an NYPD briefing on Tuesday for corporate security officials, Lt. Kevin Yorke of the Intelligence Division presented an analysis of the Kenyan attack and the response by authorities there that he said was "based solely on open-source information we gathered and is unclassified."

Much of the presentation focused on closed-circuit footage of the four shooters during the first 12 hours of the siege.

One segment showed the men hiding out in a storage


area until one disabled a camera. Yorke said it was the last known images of the terrorists, and questioned why they weren't seen again even though other closed-circuit cameras around the mall were running for another 34 hours.


"That's the million-dollar question: Were the terrorists killed or did they escape? As cop, I'm very skeptical of any claims unless I see some proof," he said. "To put it politely, the Kenyan government has been vague and contradictory in their explanations. ... So while the Kenyan government says the terrorists are dead, killed in the rooftop collapse, there's a lot of doubt in my mind that it's true." □




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Interpreter at Mandela memorial says he saw 'angels'

Continued from front

With Mandela lying in state here for a second day as thousands formed lines to pay final respects, the government found itself in an awkward position, unable to explain how Jantjie had gotten the job while admitting that it had paid a bargain rate for Jantjie to the company that supplied him, which in turn has "vanished into thin air."

Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, the deputy minister for women, children and people with disabilities, told reporters that Jantjie's first language was Xhosa, one of the most widespread among South Africa's 11 official tongues. He is "not a professional sign language interpreter" and "the English was a bit too much for him," she said.

He was paid just \$77 a day - a fraction of the usual rate of between \$125 and \$164 an hour, said Bogopane-Zulu, the first minister to break an official silence about the affair. Discussions about Jantjie dominated South Africa's airwaves, talk shows and social media sites Wednesday, the first day Mandela lay in state in a glass-canopied coffin as, authorities said, some 20,000 people had filed by. By midday Thursday, huge lines had formed again as thousands more people endured soaring temperatures and long delays to catch a glimpse of the former president, who took office for a single five-year term in 1994, sealing the demise of apartheid. After lying in state for one more day Friday, his body is to be flown to the Eastern Cape region for a state funeral in his childhood village of Qunu on Sunday. At the national memorial

Tuesday, Jantjie occupied a position close to center-stage on the podium. Clad in a dark suit, with a blue security lanyard bearing the words "state funeral" around his neck, he gesticulated in what was supposed to be sign language. Tens of thousands of people in the stadium and hundreds of millions of television viewers around the world followed the event and his part in it.

But, even as a procession of leaders from Obama to Ban Ki-moon, the U.N. secretary-general, to President Jacob Zuma of South Africa delivered their eulogies, Jantjie's mind was in turmoil with visions and hallucinations, he said Thursday. "What happened that day, I see angels come to the stadium," he told The Associated Press. "I start realizing that the problem is here," he said. "And the problem, I don't know the attack of this problem, how will it come. Sometimes I get violent on that place. Sometimes I will see things chasing me." "I was in a very difficult position," Jantjie said. "And remember those people, the president and everyone, they were armed, there was armed police around me. If I start panicking, I'll start being a problem. I have to deal with this in a manner so that I mustn't embarrass my country." "I would like to tell everybody that if I have offended them, please forgive me," he said. "I was doing what I believe makes a difference in the country." At his home in Soweto, he provided a similar account to the BBC, saying angels had descended into the 94,000-plus capacity stadium, disrupting his work. "It was not something that was deliberate," he said. □



Thamsanqa Jantjie gesticulates at his home during an interview with the Associated Press in Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. Jantjie, the man accused of faking sign interpretation next to world leaders at Nelson Mandela's memorial, told a local newspaper that he was hallucinating and hearing voices.

(AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi)

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Mexico: Congress approves historic energy bill

**ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
KATHERINE CORCORAN
Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's Congress voted Thursday to open the country's moribund state-run oil industry to foreign and domestic investors, casting aside nationalist opposition to approve the most dramatic energy reform in seven decades.

The 353-134 vote will allow the government to give private companies con-

block discussion of the measure on Wednesday by seizing the main chamber of the House of Deputies, blocking access with chairs and tables.

When the debate was moved to another room, they dragged out discussion for 20 hours before the measure was finally approved.

"The homeland is not for sale! The homeland is to be defended!" they shouted while holding protest signs

2004 despite increased investment.

According to Pemex statistics, the company has nearly 14 billion barrels in proven reserves and up to 115 billion barrels in prospective reserves, about half of which are in deep water or shale oil and gas. "The opening of Mexico's markets to put it bluntly, we believe is very good for the people of Mexico and the people everywhere in the world that uses energy,"



An opposition lawmaker reads the newspaper a day after dozens of leftist lawmakers take over the lower house trying to block discussion of the energy reform bill in Mexico City, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. Sing on the desk says: "Pemex (Mexico's state-owned oil company) does not get privatized".
(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

tracts and licenses to explore and drill for oil and gas, deals now prohibited under Mexico's constitution.

The final step, approval by 17 of Mexico's 31 states, is widely seen as assured.

The state-run oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, has had a monopoly since the government took over operations of foreign oil companies in 1938, a move that has been revered ever since as a symbol of national sovereignty. Opponents say they fear that multinationals, especially from the U.S., will once again regain the sort of domination they had over Mexico's oil before 1938. Mexico remains one of the top five crude exporters to the U.S., shipping more than 1 million barrels a day.

Leftist lawmakers tried to

and Mexican flags.

One congressman of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, Antonio Garcia Conejo, undressed during a speech Wednesday to dramatize his assertion the bill is a "plunder of the nation."

But most oil analysts had a positive view of the bill hashed out by President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party and the conservative National Action Party.

They say major change is needed to rescue Mexico's oil industry, where production has declined, and where Pemex hasn't had the finances or expertise needed to tap the country's vast deep-water and shale reserves.

While oil output has been rising in the U.S. and Canada, Mexico's production has fallen 25 percent since

William Colton, Exxon Mobil's vice president of corporate strategic planning, said in a webcast before the vote Thursday. "It's win-win if there ever was one." Supporters say a better energy sector could add at least a full percentage point to Mexico's annual growth rate, which was scaled back dramatically this year from a projected 3.5 percent to 1.3 percent. Backers also say it will be a boon to all three countries, the U.S., Canada and Mexico, in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"We are going to be able to develop services and competencies in dealing with energy that are transferable from one country to another," Thomas Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told The Associated Press. □

European report says Vatican making bank reform progress

**ELISABETTA POVOLEDO
© 2013 New York Times**

VATICAN CITY - The Vatican has made "significant efforts" to implement financial reforms complying with international transparency and anti-money-laundering standards, but the Holy See's internal watchdog agency needs to step up its controls of the Vatican's financial institutions, according to a report issued Thursday.

The report by Moneyval, a committee of financial experts that evaluates measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, concluded that "a very wide range of legislative and other measures have been taken in a short time by the Holy See," to remedy numerous deficiencies highlighted in a first Moneyval report issued in July 2012. The report was backed by the Council of Europe, an international organization that monitors human rights and the rule of law.

But the committee said these measures, though "much improved," still needed to be "tested in practice."

Pointing out that no formal inspections had yet been carried out of the Institute of Works of Religion, as the Vatican Bank is formally known, or the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See, which manages the Vatican's real estate holdings and financial portfolios, Moneyval called on the Holy See's oversight Financial Intelligence Authority to execute the inspections as soon as possible to test customer files for potential money laundering.

It also called on the Vatican to increase the resources available to the Financial Intelligence Authority, which was recently also entrusted with prudential supervision of the institutions, by hiring "experienced professionals" to allow it to carry out more effective and thorough controls "in the light of current and projected workloads."

Under Pope Benedict XVI and his successor Pope Francis, the Vatican has tried to open up the Vatican Bank and its affiliated financial organizations, traditionally secretive institutions that have periodically surfaced in the public domain when financial scandals have come to light.

Last summer, Paolo Cipriani, the director general of the bank, and his deputy, Massimo Tulli, both resigned in the wake of the arrest of Monsignor Nunzio Scarano, a priest who worked at the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See. The priest is being held for his role in a failed smuggling scheme that prosecutors say involved moving millions of euros from Switzerland into Italy. Investigators are also looking into other financial transactions involving the accounts that Scarano managed.

In keeping with his broader vision to reform the church and its institutions, since his election in March, Francis has issued several papal documents strengthening supervision of the Vatican's financial institutions, including one issued in August that extended the powers of the Financial Information Authority.

Last month, the pope appointed one of his personal secretaries, Monsignor Alfred Xuereb, to supervise the two commissions formed by the pontiff in recent months to scrutinize the Vatican's economic structures and make sure they are in accord with the Church's mission.

The Vatican Bank was established in 1942 by Pope Pius XII mainly to handle accounts for religious orders, Vatican offices and employees and individual religious people. In its earlier recommendations, Moneyval had called on the Vatican to monitor more carefully the identity and financial transactions of the account holders in all of the Holy See's financial institutions. □

Hometown remembers Madiba the villager, well before Mandela the icon

JOHN ELIGON

© 2013 New York Times

QUNU, South Africa - Nelson Mandela was on one of his early morning walks here in his rural home village when he spotted an old friend loosening up the soil on his land with a donkey-drawn plow. Mandela contemplated the sight, and although he was president at the time, he promptly and inexplicably took over.

There were no television cameras around, no journalists to capture an Everyman publicity stunt, the friend's daughter recalled. For about 15 minutes, Mandela simply pushed the plow while chatting with his former schoolmate about his land, his children and their education.

"It is something that I never imagined," said Nokuzola Tetani, who watched in 1995 as Mandela, commonly referred to by his clan name, Madiba, took the plow from her father. "Yes, Madiba was Madiba. But he was the president." While people around the world draw their appreciation of Mandela from his life as a freedom fighter and an international icon of the struggle against racial oppression, residents here, where he grew up and will be buried Sunday, say that he was, in some ways, just another villager.

In the years immediately after his release from prison, in 1990, Mandela could even sometimes walk around his village without being recognized, said Richard Stengel, who collaborated with Mandela on his autobiography. Sure, South Africans share stories of how Mandela was prone to remarkable spells of kindness and openness almost anywhere he went. But at home, back among his rural roots and all its tranquillity, residents said he treated everyone like family and immersed himself in the customs of his Xhosa culture like those around him, to the extent possible for a man living in a walled-in compound amid a sprawl of humble

mud-and-brick abodes, many without running water or electricity.

He regularly held feasts at his Qunu home with freshly slaughtered animals, following Xhosa tradition. He had a penchant for reminiscing about the old days and family connections, roaming the open fields (sometimes handing out sweets to children while he walked) and striking up (or rekindling) meaningful friendships. One Qunu elder, Kekana Geledwana, 92, said that after Mandela

Given that Mandela died at 95, few people around here can remember his childhood. He was born in 1918 in the nearby village of Mvezo but moved to Qunu, in the Eastern Cape, not long after. When he was 9, his father died, and his mother sent him away to the town of Mqhekezweni, where a regional chief, Jongintaba Dalindyebo, took him under his wing.

For the young Mandela, leaving Qunu was as traumatic as losing his father, he wrote in his autobiog-

who has spent her entire life here and now works for the Nelson Mandela Museum in Qunu. "And he would remember the people from the village."

Yet things have gotten complicated here since Mandela's death last Thursday. The police have blocked off a large portion of the major thoroughfare that cuts through the village. Large military trucks have settled in town. Some locals here and in surrounding villages are capitalizing on the flood of visitors by

feast at his home. He hosted 500 children at the first one, and the number grew to about 2,000 the last time he held the event, about a decade later. He would sometimes spend up to two hours handing out presents to the children, Tetani said. One year, she said, Mandela noticed that the food the adults were eating inside his home was of much better quality than what the children were being served outside. He loudly ground the party to a halt and demanded to know



Kekana Geledwana, who shared a distant family connection with the former president Nelson Mandela and became a close friend, at home with his daughter, Nombeko in Qunu, South Africa, Dec. 11, 2013. In the years after his release from prison, Mandela regularly held feasts at his Qunu home, had a penchant for reminiscing about the old days and familial connections, roaming the open fields and striking up meaningful friendships.

(Bryan Denton/The New York Times)

returned from prison, he so appreciated their distant family connection that they became close friends, and Mandela even took Geledwana on some trips as president.

Stengel recalled how Mandela often had better success making people in Qunu laugh when he spoke Xhosa rather than English. "He always seemed more relaxed there, like he could exhale when he was there."

raphy: "I loved it in the unconditional way that a child loves his first home." Mandela would never forget this village or the people he met there, residents say with evident pride.

"It was quite overwhelming because when he walked around, whoever he meets on the way, he would greet you, he would shake your hand and ask you, 'Who are you and who's your mother?'" said Tetani, 53,

renting out their homes. One woman has set up a food stand across the street from the Mandela homestead. Mandela will be buried next to his former home, near plots of departed relatives.

The tight security here runs contrary to the freewheeling way that Mandela went about things.

In 1995, during his presidency, he started a tradition of holding a Christmas

why. He was angry, Tetani said, and reminded everyone that the event was supposed to be focused on the children. The room fell silent. No one said a word in response, she recalled.

"Everyone felt so ashamed and apologetic," she said. The following year, the problem was corrected. Still, at least one of Mandela's friends here said he was not afraid to challenge him. □

Once Famous, Still Adored (\$25, Please)

MICHAEL MUSTO

© 2013 New York Times

"Keir Dullea, gone tomorrow," Noël Coward once quipped about the handsome actor, who is probably best known for playing the astronaut in "2001: A Space Odyssey."

But not only is Dullea, 77, still here, he was signing autographs not long ago with his "2001" co-star Gary Lockwood, greeting fans who paid to meet the sci-fi legends and walk away with a personalized still photograph from the film. The competition, however, was stiff.

"He doesn't have that much of a crowd," a scruffy looking attendee noted. Well, it may not have been as big as Corey Feldman's, but he seemed to be drawing more than the janitor from "The Breakfast Club."

Such are the colorful moments of the Chiller Theater, an autograph convention that brings together showbiz survivors with the nostalgic fans who want to bask in their faded limelight. Named after a

1960s television program that showed old sci-fi and horror movies, the convention takes place at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, a 370-room castle-like resort in New Jersey. And for two weekends each year,

mix of names from the '60s (Peter Fonda), '70s (Peter Bogdanovich, Nastassja Kinski), '80s (Zach Galligan of "Gremlins") and more recent stars like Vincent Pastore ("The Sopranos") and Omarosa ("The Ap-

prentice") felt like the world's largest stage door, as if sponsored by Oprah's "Where Are They Now?" And unlike today's stars, who are a Facebook or Twitter click away, these been-around-the-block ones stand right

shots, the striking Kinski, 52, ("Tess," "Cat People") gave fans their money's worth, offering them a choice of seven Sharpie colors for her to sign with.

"What chance is there to meet the fans other than a place like here?" she said. "It's very cool, and I'm next to the beautiful Karate Kid!"

She meant Ralph Macchio, who managed to exude boyish charm at 51 while handling a line of customers even longer than the one for a "Baywatch" star, Gena Lee Nolin.

The autograph convention is the brainchild of Kevin Clement, 58, a former memorabilia store owner from Princeton, N.J., who realized 23 years ago that he could do a better baby boomer-driven hootenanny than the one he'd just been to, at which the horror star Christopher Lee spoke for only 20 minutes and left. ("No autographs, no nothing," Clement said.)

The bearded and easygoing Clement ("I look like a cross between Bigfoot and a yeti," he said with a laugh) makes money from the \$25-a-day admissions, while the celebrities keep the profits from their autographs and memorabilia. "I like celebrities but I'm not goo-goo eyed over them," he said. "They're just people like me and you."

And they have vulnerabilities, especially in their twilight years. Clement said Ernest Borgnine, an Oscar winner who died last year, had such a great time in 2011 that he didn't want to leave.

"They get respect and adulation that they should be getting, but they don't get anywhere else," he added.

The autograph seekers tend to be unpretentious, eager people with an almost scary knowledge of their favorite stars. They're like nicer versions of Rupert Pupkin.

"They love movies and TV shows," Clement said. "It brings it back to a nostalgic feeling, when things were a little bit safer in the world." □



Omarosa Manigault of "The Apprentice" television show at the Chiller Theater autograph convention in Parsippany, N.J. The annual convention brings together former stars looking for adoration and fans willing to give it to them – along with cash for their autographs.

(Laura Pedrick/The New York Times)

it is where celebrity never dies.

The last show, in late October, featured a bracing

prentice").

Drawing about 13,000 people, the three-day celebration of celebrity worship

before you, waiting for you to tell them you love them. The highest concentration of celebrities was clustered in the hotel's main Living Room, where rows of foldable tables were set up and covered in brown fabric. Near the entrance of the room was Nancy Kwan, 74, an actress perhaps best known for starring in the 1961 film "Flower Drum Song."

A 68-year-old retired film history teacher had brought a lobby card (a small poster) from a different movie, "The World of Suzie Wong," for Kwan to sign, which she graciously did for \$20, in between lamenting to fans that her "Flower Drum" songs were dubbed by Mickey Rooney's second wife.

Prices for autographs vary from table to table. Fonda, 73, charged \$35 to sign the retired teacher's card for the motorcycle drama "The Wild Angels."

"I have 40,000 of these at home," said the collector, who preferred not to be named and who clearly hoped to get them all autographed, one at a time. Charging \$40 for certain

Beauty On The Beach

Laurra Vidcomi

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort. What she loves most of Aruba is the weather and the beach.

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Stairs to the 1912 main Miami Post Office, in Miami. A new, 5,000-square-foot Miami Center for Architecture and Design, housed in part of the post office, opened last Friday and will be the new headquarters of the American Institute of Architects Miami chapter, with space for free community events as well as professional gatherings. (Moris Moreno/The New York Times)

LINDA LEE

© 2013 New York Times

Allan Shulman, the 51-year-old principal of the architectural firm Shulman & Associates in Miami, first became known for historic preservation. He rescued the 1915 Browns Hotel on lower Ocean Drive, which was built of pine. And he found a way to save much of the art deco Lincoln Theatre on Lincoln Road, turning it into a stylish glass-walled H&M store. His new, 5,000-square-foot Miami Center for Architecture and Design (known as MCAD) opened last Friday in part of the 1912 main Miami Post Office, on Northeast First Avenue, in Downtown Miami. Over the years, the building had suffered much indignity, including a spell as an Office

Depot. Now, as the new headquarters of the American Institute of Architects Miami chapter, it will be a place for free community events as well as professional gatherings. Speaking by phone from his office in the Miami Design District, Shulman, president of the Miami chapter, offered details about MCAD and opinions on the city's building scene.

Q: Your office said MCAD cost an impressively low \$60 a square foot. What considerations went into its design?

A: We wanted it to be a contemporary space, because Miami has a contemporary image. So the back half is open-plan, kind of an industrial space, with a floating metal staircase

fragments were there with the ghost of memory. We couldn't fully restore the extraordinary brick vaults, because of the budget. The new hanging globe lights are a reflection of the original design. When it was built in 1912, the limestone-and-steel post office was one of the most permanent civic structures in Miami, a city that was largely wood.

Q: Wasn't it nepotism for you as the head of the Miami AIA to hire yourself as the architect?

A: I can assure you I would never have chosen myself. Even before I became president, there was no time to do a competition. Because of the budget, all the professional work, including mine, had to be donated. Most of the fixtures and furniture were donated. The lighting, glass, carpet, wood floors,

even hardware were donated.

Q: With all the new buildings going up in Miami, could there be a new real estate bubble?

A: No. Although the last recession seemed like a bubble, I think the building was just out ahead of the actual market. Almost everything built has been enthusiastically absorbed. I'm pretty convinced that the new projects have to do with the changes in the city, where urban life has come alive and the neighborhoods have grown into diversified districts. Miami is very much a city of cities, with no strong gravitational center. Probably the most dynamic place now would be Brickell, where development today dwarfs what happened during the previous boom. There are towers going up all over the place. □



NHL Capsules

Blackhawks use big 2nd period to beat Flyers 7-2

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Duncan Keith and Andrew Shaw scored in a 39-second span at the start of Chicago's five-goal second period Wednesday night, sparking the Blackhawks to a 7-2 victory over Ray Emery and the Philadelphia Flyers.

Patrick Sharp had a goal and two assists for Chicago, which has won three in a row after a three-game losing streak.

Michal Handzus scored a short-handed goal in the second and Marian Hossa had three assists, helping rookie goaltender Antti Raanta win his second consecutive start in place of injured Corey Crawford. The seven goals set a season high for the Blackhawks (23-6-5), who have scored



Chicago Blackhawks goalie Antti Raanta (31) makes a save on a breakaway, short-handed shot by Philadelphia Flyers left wing Michael Raffl during the third period of an NHL hockey game on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013, in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 7-2

19 times during their winning streak and lead the NHL with 129 goals. Shaw's nifty wraparound at 1:22 of the second made it six players with at least 10 goals for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who are once again on top of the league standings with 51 points.

Emery was pulled in the third period of his first start in Chicago since he teamed with Crawford to give the Blackhawks one of the best goaltending tandems in the league last season.

He signed a free-agent deal with Philadelphia in July.

Jakub Voracek and Steve Downie scored power-play goals for the Flyers, who have lost three straight.

Associated Press

Continued on page 21

Robinson Cano and Mariners finalize \$240M contract

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano and the Seattle Mariners finalized their \$240 million, 10-year contract that was agreed upon late last week.

The deal, which is tied for the fourth largest contract in Major League Baseball history, was completed on Thursday after Cano passed his physical.

Cano had spent his entire career with the New York Yankees and became their most feared hitter. The five-time All-Star played in 160 games last season and hit .314 with 27 homers and 107 RBIs. Cano posted an .899 on-base plus slugging percentage and finished fifth in American League MVP voting. The Yankees offered the 31-year-old Cano a \$175 million, seven-year deal. New York went 85-77 last season and missed the playoffs for only the second time in 19 years; Seattle went 71-91 and hasn't been in the playoffs since 2001.

Only the two deals signed by Alex Rodriguez — first with Texas and then the Yankees — and Joey Votto's contract with Cincinnati were worth more. Albert Pujols also signed a \$240 million deal with the Los

Angeles Angels. Cano will make \$24 million per season from 2014-23 and the contract includes bonuses for awards. It's the fifth deal to top \$200 million in MLB history. Cano was scheduled to be introduced at a news conference later Thursday.

"We have stayed true to our plan of building our organization from the ground up through the amateur draft and player development, and now have had the opportunity to add an All-Star player through free agency," Seattle general manager Jack Zduriencik said in a statement.

Cano's been one of the most durable players for the past seven MLB seasons, missing only 14 out of 1,120 games since the start of the 2007 season. He's a career .309 hitter who has averaged 24 homers and 97 RBIs per season. Cano has hit at least 25 homers and had a slugging percentage above .500 in every season since 2009. □

In this June 6, 2012 file photo, New York Yankees' Robinson Cano smiles after hitting a solo home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press



Klinsmann to remain as US coach through 2018

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

Even before leading the United States into next year's World Cup, Jurgen Klinsmann has been signed to stay on as the American coach for the 2018 World Cup. Klinsmann agreed to a four-year contract extension through 2018, the U.S. Soccer Federation said on Thursday.

Coach since July 2011, his new deal gives him the additional title of USSF technical director.

"One of the reasons we hired Jurgen as our head coach was to advance the program forward, and we've seen the initial stages of that happening on the field and also off the field in various areas," USSF President Sunil Gulati said in a statement. "In the past two years he has built a

strong foundation from the senior team down to the youth teams, and we want to continue to build upon that success."

The U.S. has won 27 and drawn seven of 44 games under Klinsmann, qualified for its seventh straight World Cup and won this year's CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"I am very fortunate to continue the work we started more than two and half years ago," Klinsmann said in a statement. "The role of technical director is a huge challenge and also a huge opportunity as we look to keep connecting the dots to the youth national teams, coaching education, the development academy and the grass-roots efforts in this country." After winning the 1990 World Cup with West Germany and the 1996 Euro-



United States head coach Juergen Klinsmann from Germany answers journalists' question after the draw ceremony for the 2014 soccer World Cup in Costa do Saupe near Salvador, Brazil, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

pean Championship with Germany, Klinsmann retired as a player in 1998 and moved to California.

Now 49, Klinsmann coached Germany from 2004-06, leading the team to a third-place finish at

home in the 2006 World Cup and then quit. He coached Bayern Munich in the 2008-09 season. □

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Clips beat Celts 96-88 in Doc Rivers' return

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Jamal Crawford hit a pair of 3-pointers 23 seconds apart to help the Clippers pull away in the last 3 minutes and former Celtics coach Doc Rivers won his first game back in Boston when Los Angeles beat the Celtics 96-88 Wednesday night. **NBA Capsules**

Crawford came off the bench to score 21 points and Chris Paul had 22 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. Blake Griffin scored 18 points for the Clippers, who won for the seventh time in 10 games. Jeff Green scored 29 points against his former coach, who was traded to Los Angeles last summer for a first-round draft pick. Jordan Crawford had 20 points

and nine assists, and Brandon Bass had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics, who lost their second in a row.

Boston lost to the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night, kicking off a reunion week of sorts by facing former Celtics Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce. One night later, Rivers returned to the TD Garden, where the banner for the franchise's unprecedented 17th NBA title hangs from the rafters.

The Clippers continue his reunion week Thursday night when against Garnett and Pierce in Brooklyn.

WARRIORS 95, MAVERICKS 93

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry made a pull-up jumper with 3 seconds remaining to cap a

sensational fourth quarter, rallying Golden State from 18 points down to beat Dallas.

Curry scored 16 of his 33 points in the final period. He finished with nine assists, four rebounds and another big shot in a young career already full of them.

With the clock winding down, Curry dribbled on the perimeter, came off a screen and faked a shot to send Shawn Marion jumping past him. Curry then made a 19-footer to give Golden State the lead for good.

Jose Calderon heaved a desperation shot at the buzzer that was never close.

Harrison Barnes scored 17 points, David Lee added 15 points and 11 rebounds,



Current Los Angeles Clippers head coach and former Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers waves during a video tribute to him for his first time back to the TD Garden, after the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013.The

Associated Press

and Andrew Bogut grabbed a season-high 18 rebounds to help the Warriors overcome 18 turnovers and a sloppy start.

Monta Ellis and Dirk Nowitzki each scored 21 points, and Calderon had 18 as Dallas finished 2-2 on its road trip.

KNICKS 83, BULLS 78

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and New York pulled out the victory over Chicago after blowing a 23-point lead.

Amare Stoudemire made the tiebreaking jumper with 2:35 left and finished with 14 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who ended a two-game losing streak but made it harder on themselves than necessary with some sloppy second-half offense.

Mike Dunleavy Jr. scored 20 points for the Bulls, who have lost three straight and five of six. They are having a dreadful time scoring, topping out at 75 points in their previous two games and barely surpassing that in this one.

Joakim Noah had 12 points and 11 rebounds in his return after missing a game with a bruised right thigh,

but Luol Deng missed his third straight game with a sore left Achilles.

TIMBERWOLVES 106, 76ERS 99

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Love had 26 points, 15 rebounds and five assists, and Minnesota rallied from a 19-point deficit to beat slumping Philadelphia.

Ricky Rubio had 21 points, seven assists and five rebounds, Nikola Pekovic added 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Robbie Hummel hit a couple of big shots for the Wolves in the fourth quarter to key the comeback.

Spencer Hawes had 20 points and six rebounds for the Sixers.

who led 39-20 after a tremendous first quarter and still held a 13-point advantage at halftime. But they turned the ball over 26 times and shot 14 free throws to Minnesota's 29.

Hummel scored all 10 of his points in the fourth, including a 3-pointer that started the deciding 13-3 run.

JAZZ 122, KINGS 101

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Richard Jefferson scored 20 points and Utah halted a four-game skid by cruising past Sacramento. □

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MLB's Rangers draft NFL quarterback Russell Wilson



In this June 7, 2013 file photo, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson throws out the ceremonial first pitch before a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and the New York Yankees, in Seattle. Associated Press

HOWIE RUMBERG
AP Sports Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP) — Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson was selected by the Texas Rangers in the Triple-A portion of Major League

Baseball's winter draft on Thursday. Wilson, who played minor league baseball for parts of two seasons before becoming an NFL star, will be placed on Texas' restricted list.

"At the end of the day, he obviously has a lot bigger things that he's working on right now," Rangers assistant general manager A.J. Preller said, "and we don't want to interrupt with that aspect of it. But if at some point down the road he decides he wants to do baseball again, we felt like it would be a positive to have him with us."

Wilson was drafted as a second baseman by the Colorado Rockies in the fourth round of the 2010 amateur draft out of North Carolina State University, where he excelled at both baseball and American football. In two seasons at the Class A level he hit .229 with five homers and 26 RBIs.

In 2011, he left the Rockies for American football at the University of Wisconsin. He was required to return to the Rockies a portion of his \$200,000 signing bonus. The 25-year-old Wilson was taken in the third round of the 2012 NFL draft. He led Seattle to the playoffs in his rookie year and the Seahawks are 11-2 this season.

The Rangers thought the \$12,000 fee they will have to pay the Rockies was worth the investment. "You see him playing on Sunday. You hear about the work ethic, the person,"

Preller said. "I think that's message for all of our going to be a positive players in our system." □

NHL Capsules

Continued from page 18

KINGS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 1
TORONTO (AP) — Jeff Carter scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period and Los Angeles beat Toronto for its fifth straight victory.

Carter beat former teammate Jonathan Bernier with a wrist shot between the legs on a 2-on-1 break for his eighth of the season. Kyle Clifford added an insurance goal with 1:59 remaining and Drew Doughty also scored for Los Angeles. Following a 6-0 victory Tuesday night in Montreal, the Kings improved to 12-1-4 in

their last 17 games.

Martin Jones, a 23-year-old rookie, made 38 saves to earn his fourth win in four NHL starts.

Cody Franson scored his first of the season for Toronto.

DUCKS 2, WILD 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Corey Perry scored a goal in his seventh straight game, Ryan Getzlaf extended his point streak to 13 games and Anaheim beat Minnesota for its fourth straight victory.

Jonas Hiller made 23 saves and Alex Grant scored his second career goal on his second NHL shot as the Pacific Division-leading Ducks improved to 12-0-2 at home, extending the second-longest streak without

a regulation loss to open a season in the shootout era. Josh Harding stopped 29 shots and Jason Pominville scored his 15th goal early in the third period for the Wild, who have lost four straight on the road.

Perry extended the longest goal streak in the league this season with his 21st. Getzlaf started the play and picked up an assist, extending the NHL's longest active point streak and matching St. Louis' Alexander Steen for the longest in the league this season. The Anaheim captain has scored in each of his last 15 appearances since Nov. 6, but the NHL officially recognizes only 13 games because of an injury absence early in the string. □

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By: Dr. Carlos Viana

The Holidays are upon us and for many of us that means parties with lots of alcohol. Drinking alcohol in moderation can be fun and sociable, but, is alcohol healthy?

A Danish study found that "Wine drinkers had significantly lower mortality from both coronary heart disease and cancer than did non-wine drinkers." Beer and other alcohol drinkers enjoyed a smaller benefit.

This is good news for some; drinking with the doctor's permission! But wait; if you are not a drinker or suffer from liver disease, gastritis, or high blood pressure, it's not a good idea to start drinking alcohol for the health benefits. However, if you enjoy an occasional drink and are otherwise healthy, go back and read the first paragraph. Drinking "in moderation" is the key. The benefits are only effective when keeping to the recommended levels. To work the right way, alcohol intake should be spread over the whole week and binge sessions, like at a party should be avoided. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), moderate is defined as 2 drinks a day if you're a male 65 and younger, or 1 drink a day if you're a female or a male 66 and older. 1 drink means 12 oz of beer, 4 oz of wine, 1.5 oz of 80-proof hard liquor, or 1 oz of 100-proof liquor.

Unfortunately, for many having a good time means doing everything to excess which includes overindulgence in alcohol consumption and the ensuing effect of a hangover. A hangover is the result of a combination of alcohol toxicity, dehydration, and Vitamin A, B and C depletion all caused by alcohol metabolism on your system. The symptoms are usually a dry mouth, nausea, fatigue; dizziness and headache.

Over the years there have been many folk remedies for hangovers. Some of these "cures" come with the toast "The hair of the dog that bit me"! The homeopathic principle of "like cures like" advice given literally in ancient times, "If a dog bites you, put a hair of the dog into the wound" this was distorted to imply that drinking more alcohol would help your hangover.

Apart from the obvious effects, during a hangover you are suffering the effects of a mild overdose of a depressant drug, your nerves are reacting and you have also flushed vitamins and nutrients from your system causing a shock that your body is struggling to fix. This is why hangover symptoms often include disorientation and "the jitters".

Alcohol enters cells and is broken down into a toxin. Your liver converts this toxin into ammonia and acetic acid, which is non-toxic and can be used by your body for energy. By the way, the other name for acetic acid is vinegar! In a hangover ammonia

is metabolized in the brain which has only a limited capacity to remove the excess ammonia coming in.

For those of you really partying to overload who include cocaine the news gets worse. Alcohol and cocaine form a product in your body called cocaethylene. Abusers know that higher alcohol concentrations lead to higher blood cocaine levels. However, high levels of alcohol slow down cocaine metabolism. This slow down may explain why users feel an enhanced euphoria when using the drugs in combination. Regrettably, the risk a sudden death from a heart attack is greatly increased.

So what is a partygoer to do? The best advice is to drink alcohol IN MODERATION avoiding binge drinking, and take red wine in preference to other alcoholic drinks. It's not necessary to have an alcoholic beverage in hand during an entire party. We enjoy sparkling water with a lime between glasses of red wine when socializing. Always eat something either before or while you are drinking. If you have drunk large quantities of alcohol, drink plenty of water afterwards. This will counteract dehydration. Rather than drink coffee the morning after a drinking session, a breakfast consisting of complex carbohydrates, a whole grain cereal right for your metabolic type, a glass of fresh fruit juice and a cup of green tea should bring your blood sugar level up to an acceptable level and help to rehydrate

your body.

What not to do! Do not drink alcohol to try to neutralize your hangover. Bloody Mary's only make you progressively more useless as you drink more of them and slow down the healing process of your body. Do not waste your time with aspirin that will destroy your liver if combined with alcohol. Aspirin can cause sudden death at any time. So prevalent is death by aspirin that in the US that many aspirin induced deaths are listed on "cause" as "natural". Alcohol damages the liver; and aspirin damages the liver; but if you mix the two, the damage is much worse.

The most important natural supplement for a hangover is mineral water that helps rehydrate your body. Natural supplements that help neutralize alcohol byproducts and protect cells against the damaging effects of alcohol include vitamin C, B Complex, folic Acid, the amino acids SAME and glutathione, vitamin E, and selenium. We like to take extra vitamin C & B complex with a liter/qt of water before an evening of festivities. If more help is needed, we provide colon-hydro therapy in our clinic which can help flush out toxins and re-hydrate the body quickly.


Get The Point! The Holidays should be spent reconnecting with family and friends in a festive exchange. In ancient times, putting "the hair of the dog that bit you into the wound" did not help prevent infection. Nothing is

said about the dog biting you twice as you try to get some of its hair; which is what will happen if you try to cure your hangover with more alcohol. If the festivities have come back to bite you, or you are just looking for healthy ways to celebrate, we are open throughout the season to help you. Salud, Santé, Cheers, To Your Health!

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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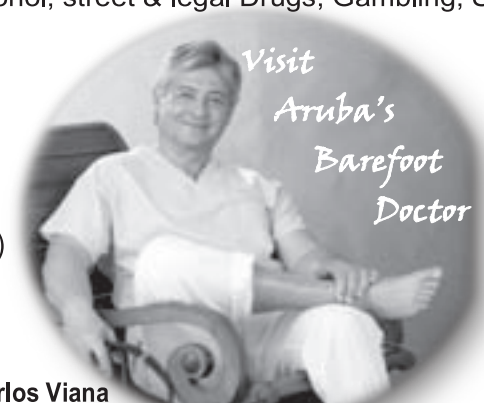
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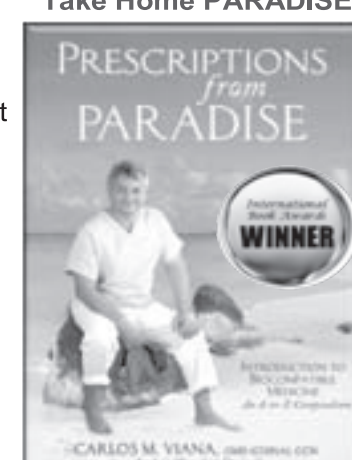
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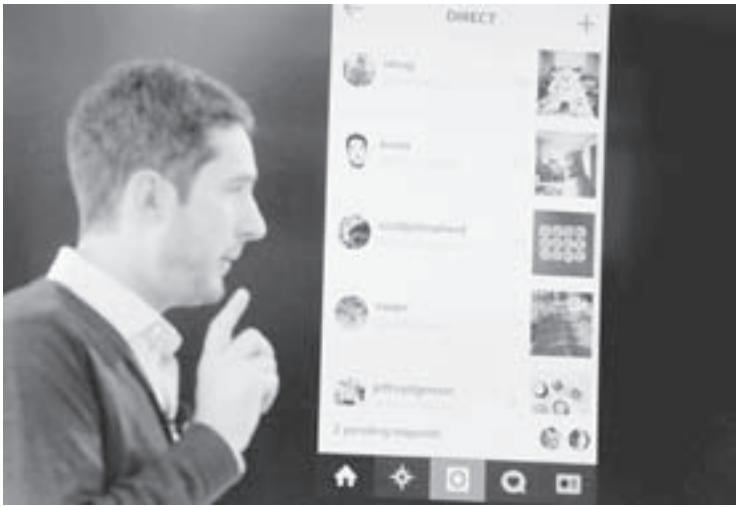


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Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom introduces a new feature, Instagram Direct, that lets users share photos and videos with up to 15 people rather than everyone who follows them on the popular photo-sharing app, at a news conference, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

Instagram launches direct messaging feature

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Instagram has added a new feature that lets users share photos and videos with up to 15 people rather than everyone who follows them on the popular Facebook-owned photo-sharing app. Called Instagram Direct, the feature is available for Apple and Android phones, CEO Kevin Systrom said at a news event in New York City. Users can choose up to 15 people who follow them on Instagram to share photos or videos.

Previously, the only way to share content on Instagram was to post it to your feed, which can be either visible to everyone or locked so only people you approve can see it.

The new tool comes as popularity of messaging apps like Snapchat and WhatsApp is growing. On Tuesday, Twitter also updated its direct messaging tool to let users send photos and videos to one another for the first time.

Forrester Research analyst Julie Ask called the messaging tool a "catch up move" for Instagram, in a blog post, noting that apps such as WeChat already let people share videos, photos, messages and other content.

To use Instagram Direct,

download the latest update to the app, and upload or snap a photo the way you normally would. Once you're done applying old-school filters, tagging your buddies and adding a caption if you wish, you'll get the option to either share with "followers" or "direct." Tapping the latter will bring up suggested followers to send the photo to, or let you pick from your list of followers.

Once you send the photo, a green check mark will appear if the recipient has seen it, replaced by a heart if they "liked" it. It is possible to send photos to people who don't follow you, but it'll appear as a pending request and won't go into their inbox. They can tap "X" and they won't get a direct message from you again — or tap a checkmark and it'll go into their inbox.

Systrom said the reason for the 15-recipient limit is to make the feature about "moments you share with friends" and "not about spamming everyone you know."

Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia thinks the new feature will help Instagram compete with Snapchat, the disappearing-message app that Facebook reportedly tried and failed to buy for \$3 billion recently.

U.S. cars and trucks hit record gas mileage in 2012



In this Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012, file photo, John Mendel, executive vice president of sales for American Honda unveils the 2013 Honda Accord Coupe concept during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Associated Press

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — New cars and trucks sold in the U.S. last year got an average of 23.6 miles per gallon (10 liters per 100 kilometers) in combined city and highway driving, a record that came mainly through improvements to engines and transmissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Mazda led all automakers with an average of 27.1 mpg (8.7 liters per 100 kilometers), followed closely by Honda with 26.6 and Volkswagen at 25.8 mpg. Chrysler-Fiat, which relies more on trucks and larger cars for its sales, had the worst mileage at 20.1 mpg (11.7 liters per 100 kilometers), followed by Daimler, maker of Mercedes-Benz luxury vehicles, at 21.1. General Motors, which also sells a lot of trucks and SUVs, was third from the bottom

at 21.7 mpg, according to the report.

The EPA is estimating that the average mileage of 2013 cars will rise another 0.4 mpg to 24 mpg (9.8 liters per 100 kilometers). Final figures for 2013 won't be available until next year. Last year was the first year that automakers fell under more stringent government fuel economy regulations that require them to sell cars and trucks that get a combined 54.5 miles per gallon (4.3 liters per 100 kms) by 2025. Carbon dioxide emissions also are at a record low, 376 grams per mile.

Christopher Grundler, director of the EPA's office of Transportation and Air Quality, said many automakers already are meeting gas mileage standards for 2016 because of innovations. Automakers are offering more efficient engines, multiple-speed trans-

missions that keep engines at peak efficiency, and turbocharging that gives smaller engines more power when needed.

They've also reduced weight by using lighter materials, powered more pumps off a battery rather than the engine to eliminate drag, and they've improved aerodynamics of new cars so they slice through the wind with less resistance.

The government gas mileage requirements get tougher to meet as the years progress toward 2025, but Grundler said he's confident the auto industry has shown it has the kind of innovation needed to meet the challenge.

The cost of cars will rise gradually as automakers spend on new technology to get better mileage, but that will be more than offset by savings in gasoline spending, Grundler said. □



US stocks fall for a third straight day

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Wall Street's third down day in a row sent stocks to their lowest levels in a month Thursday as investors worried that the end may be nearing for the Federal Reserve's support for the U.S. economy.

The Fed's stimulus efforts have been a key factor in the bull market that has pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index almost 25 higher percent this year. Investors know it will end sooner or later. But the timing, and the fallout, are uncertain.

Until this month, stocks had risen for eight weeks straight. But stocks posted their biggest declines in five weeks on Wednesday, and dropped further on Thursday. Now they're on the verge of their second weekly loss in a row.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 104.10 points, or 0.7 percent, at 15,739.43. The S&P 500 fell 6.72 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,775.50. The Nasdaq composite dropped 5.41 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,998.40.

The Dow is still up 20 per-



Aramark President and CEO Eric Foss, second left, watches as his company's IPO begins trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. The company, with roughly 267,000 employees, runs concession stands at Soldier Field, home to the Chicago Bears, and provides services for aircraft maker Airbus at its U.K. offices.

(AP Photo/Ben Hider, NYSE)

cent this year, and the Nasdaq has risen 32 percent.

"We don't think we're in a bubble, however we do know we're in an expensive market," said Marty Leclerc, chief investment officer and portfolio manager at Barrack Yard Advisors.

Leclerc said indices have

risen 50 percent over the past couple of years, while earnings are up 12 percent, so it "wouldn't be unusual to have a step backwards even in the confines of a bull market run."

In economic news, the number of people seeking unemployment benefits rose to about where it was

before the Great Recession.

Also, U.S. shoppers spent more money on appliances, furniture and cars in November. Spending had been muted for months heading into the crucial holiday shopping period, a worrisome sign for investors. Retail sales rose 0.7 percent

last month, the biggest gain in five months. October sales were also revised higher.

That's the kind of economic data that has been interpreted to mean that the U.S. economy is strong enough for the Fed reduce, or "taper," as it's called on Wall Street, its stimulus program. "We get this taper mania, where every piece of economic data gets examined very closely," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist with Schaeffer's Investment Research. Detrick doesn't think that will happen as soon as this month. "I don't think the data's been strong enough for that," he said.

Social networking stocks continued to be strong. Facebook jumped \$2.45, or 5 percent, to \$51.83 after the stock was added to the S&P 500 index. Twitter rose \$2.99, or almost 6 percent, to \$55.33. Lululemon Athletica plunged \$7.96, or almost 12 percent, to \$60.39 after the upscale yoga clothing maker said sales will be flat in the next quarter and revenue for the year will be less than it had predicted. □

Hilton Worldwide shares jump in market IPO debut



CEO of Hilton Worldwide Christopher Nassetta, center, poses in a Hilton robe after his company's IPO began trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. is the world's largest hotel group, with 665,667 rooms across 90 countries and territories.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Business Writer

Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. shares jumped in ini-

tial trading Thursday as the company returns to the market in the largest hotel IPO ever.

The hotelier was taken private in 2007 by the Blackstone Group. It returned as a publicly traded compa-

ny Thursday, raising \$2.35 billion in its offering of 117.6 million shares at \$20 each. That tops the total payoff of \$2.1 billion generated by Twitter's IPO last month.

Hilton shares rose \$1.62, or 8.1 percent, to \$21.62 in midday trading after rising as high as \$21.91 earlier.

Hilton is the world's largest hotel group with 665,667 rooms across 90 countries and territories. It operates luxury brands such as the Waldorf Astoria and Conrad Hotels & Resorts but has built much of its recent growth on franchise deals. Investor demand for IPOs has been strong recently. Hilton's offering has trumped those of its peers. The next biggest was Hyatt Hotels Corp.'s \$1.1 billion offering in 2009, according to Dealogic.

Hilton's market capitalization of about \$20 billion is

well above that of other hoteliers following the offering. Marriott International and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. each have market capitalizations of \$13.8 billion as of the close of trading Wednesday.

Blackstone is not selling any shares in the IPO, and will continue to hold majority voting power in the company. Hilton, based in McLean, Va., plans to use the proceeds from the offering to pay back debt. Hilton said it is selling 64.1 million shares and a stockholder is offering 53.5 million shares. The underwriters also have been given an option to buy an additional 17.6 million shares at the \$20 offering price to cover additional demand. Its shares are trading under the symbol "HLT" on the New York Stock Exchange.

Airlines expect profits to jump to record high

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The global airline industry expects its profits to jump to a record high next year, helped by falling jet fuel prices, rising travel demand and cost-cutting.

The International Air Transport Association said Thursday it forecasts a profit of \$19.7 billion — well above the \$12.9 billion expected this year and the \$7.4 billion made in 2012.

But the Geneva-based group, which represents 240 airlines, or 84 percent of total air traffic, noted margins are dropping. Next year's profit would come from projected revenues of \$743 billion. By contrast, 2010's \$19.2 billion profit was made on revenues of just \$579 billion.

Tony Tyler, director-general and CEO of IATA, said that the profit would amount to a little less than \$6 per passenger.

"To put that into perspective, the McDonald's down the road here in Geneva will make about the same amount of profit by selling four Happy Meals," Tyler told reporters.

"It begs the question of whether \$6 per passenger is a reasonable reward for airlines if you consider the technology, skills and capital that is invested," he said. Passenger traffic has been expanding by about 5-6 percent and jet fuel prices remain high, but below their 2012 peak, Tyler said. The \$12.9 billion net profit the industry expects for 2013, based on \$708 billion in revenue, is itself a significant improvement on the group's earlier forecasts. He attributed that to "a slight fall in the high price of oil" and the efficiencies of mergers and joint ventures, along with more success at cutting costs. More airlines, for example, are charging passengers separately for food, baggage and other items.

IATA's chief economist, Brian Pearce, expects these factors to continue to help the industry into 2014. □

US unemployment aid applications surge to 368K

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits rose 68,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 368,000, the largest increase in more than a year.

The surge in first-time applications could be a troubling sign if it lasts. But it likely reflects the difficulty

adjusting for delays after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the less volatile four-week average rose 6,000 to 328,750. That is close to pre-recession levels and generally a positive sign for job gains.

Applications had tumbled in recent weeks to nearly six-year lows, partly because of a late Thanksgiving holiday that may

have distorted the government's seasonal adjustments. Economists believe this week's jump in claims was a dose of payback for those declines.

"What the seasonals give in one month they have to take back the next, hence today's number," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Applications for unemploy-

ment aid are a proxy for layoffs. A steady decline over the past year suggests that fewer Americans have lost their jobs. Economists will track the next few weeks closely to see if that trend is reversing, or if the surge is a temporary blip caused by seasonal adjustments.

The recent drop in layoffs has coincided with a pick-up in hiring. □

US stockpiles jump in October by most in 9 months

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies boosted their stockpiles at the fastest rate in nine months in October as their sales grew. The gain in restocking indicates businesses anticipated a healthy holiday shopping season.

Business inventories increased 0.7 percent in October, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That follows a 0.6 percent gain in September. Sales rose 0.5 percent, above a 0.3 percent gain the previous month.

The increase could signal better growth in the October-December quarter than some economists had anticipated. Greater restocking boosts growth because it requires more factory production.

Growth is still likely to slow from the July-September quarter's robust 3.6 percent annual rate, half of which came from a jump

in restocking.

But consumers appear to be spending more, a trend that will help keep the economy growing at solid pace.

A separate report Thurs-

day showed that retail sales rose 0.7 percent in November, the biggest gain in five months. Americans spent more on big-ticket items such as cars,

electronics, appliances and furniture. They also made more purchases online. Retail sales have risen at a healthy clip for two straight months. That suggests that

stockpiles in the July-September quarter. So far, however, economists say that inventories don't appear to be outpacing sales. A measure of inventories as a percent of sales shows that stockpiles are in line with historical averages.

Still, stockpile changes are likely to contribute much less to growth in the final three months of the year — and maybe even subtract from overall growth. That's why many economists forecast that the economy will expand at a 2 percent to 2.5 percent annual rate in the October-December period.

The business inventories report includes data on stockpiles held by wholesalers, manufacturers and retailers. Wholesale businesses increased their stockpiles 1.4 percent in October, the fastest pace in two years. Retail inventories rose 0.8 percent and manufacturers added 0.1 percent. □



Chris Busch, multichannel sales support manager at an Oklahoma City Best Buy store, moves inventory at the store in Oklahoma City. The government reported how much U.S. businesses adjusted their stockpiles in October on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013. (AP Photo/Sue Ogricki)

day showed that retail sales rose 0.7 percent in November, the biggest gain in five months. Americans spent more on big-ticket items such as cars,

steady hiring has given Americans greater confidence to spend more.

The October gain in inventories comes after companies built up huge stock-

US retail sales rise 0.7 pct., most in 5 months

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumers ramped up spending in November on cars, appliances and furniture and made more purchases online, signaling growing confidence in the economy at the start of the holiday shopping season.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that retail sales rose 0.7 percent, the biggest gain in five months. October's figure was also revised higher to 0.6 percent. Two straight months of healthy sales

suggest steady hiring is encouraging Americans to spend more this holiday season, particularly on big-ticket items. That could give a critical boost to the economy. The report also shows that consumers are purchasing more at home on their computers — and less at traditional stores.

Thursday's report "suggests that the holiday shopping season began on a strong note," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. Auto sales jumped 1.8 percent, furniture pur-

chases rose 1.2 percent and sales at electronics and appliances stores rose 1.1 percent. Excluding the volatile categories of autos, gas and building materials, sales rose a solid 0.5 percent in November.

Americans also are shifting more spending to online and catalog retailers. Online and catalog sales rose 2.2 percent last month, the most in nearly 18 months. Sales were weak at some retail chains. Clothing and grocery stores reported lower sales last month. And gains at department stores,

health care and sporting goods stores were all tepid. Those trends could explain why many retail chains estimated disappointing sales over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in late November, one of the most critical for those businesses. Nonetheless, Americans are spending more, which could give a much-needed boost to the economy in the final three months of the year. Consumer spending rose only 1.4 percent in the July-September quarter, the weakest gain in nearly four years. □

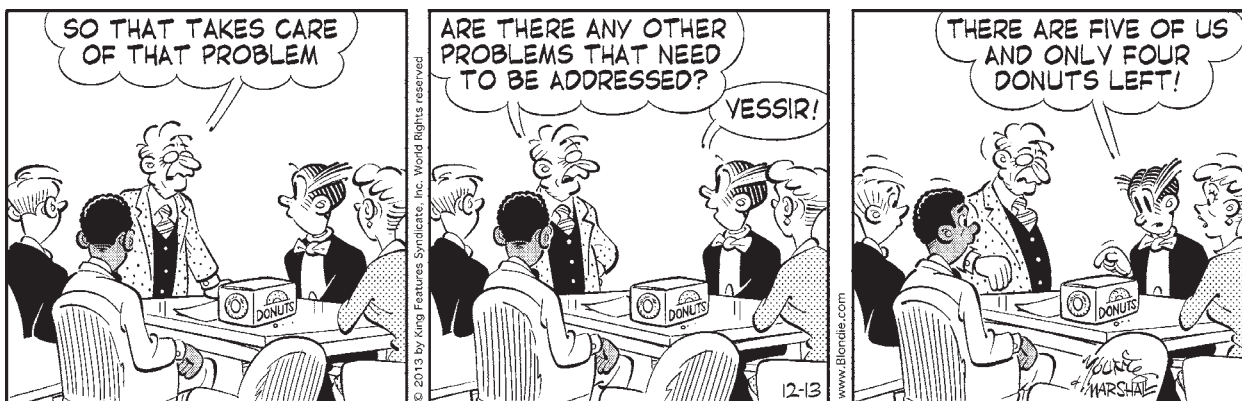
Mutts



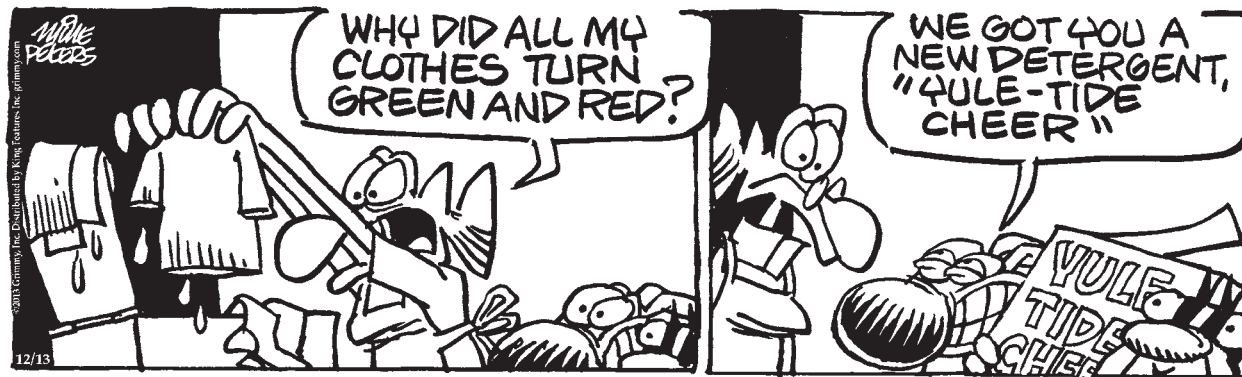
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9						
	7		3					
4		2		6				1
	9		7				1	
1		4				6		3
	3				4		5	
5				1		4		2
				5		3		
						8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

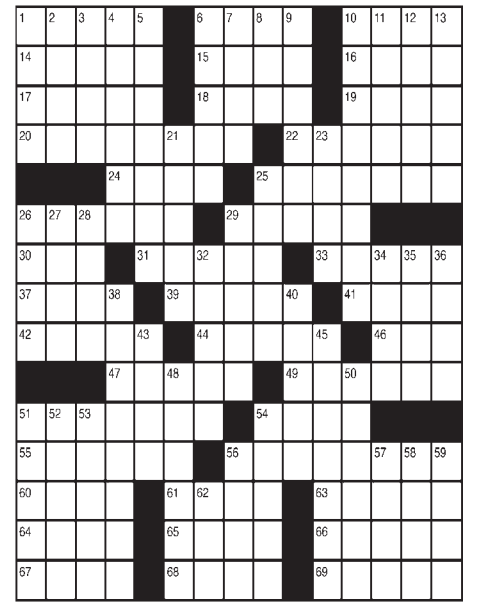
4	9	7	5	2	8	6	1	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
6	8	1	9	4	3	7	5	2
2	4	3	1	8	6	5	9	7
7	6	9	2	5	4	3	8	1
8	1	5	3	9	7	2	6	4
9	5	8	7	1	2	4	3	6
3	7	4	8	6	5	1	2	9
1	2	6	4	3	9	8	7	5

ACROSS

- Work
- "Without delay!" for short
- Wander
- of; savvy about
- Colorado resort
- Thus
- France's capital
- Villain
- Rob Reiner's dad
- Summary
- Sent an invoice to
- Pencil's core
- Reads slowly
- Flaw
- Disguises
- "Got You Under My Skin"
- Understood, though not said
- Chairs & stools
- Swerve
- Snouts
- Letters next to a lipstick kiss
- Discontinued
- Takes a nap
- Inventor — Whitney
- Stogie
- Kept away from
- Of the nation's government
- Baby chicken's cry
- Pencil's rubber end
- Condition caused by fever
- Blyth and Jillian
- Show boldness
- Silly as a
- Web surfer's stop
- "Did You See a Lassie?"
- Despises
- Casual shirts, for short
- Cronkite's field
- Garbage
- Not at home
- Horse's shelter
- Baltimore bird
- Admire greatly
- Stay away from
- Droops
- Lung contents
- USNA freshmen
- Solitaires
- Exams taken before a panel
- Concur
- Shapes; forms
- Hell's ruler
- Annoys
- Spreads for fancy crackers
- Headfirst plunge
- Get ; take revenge
- Nourish
- Money hoarder
- Deep pink
- Floored
- Saga
- Lose one's grip on an icy road
- Court breaks
- Iron alloy
- Urgent
- of hand; magic trick
- Flower bed
- Pandemonium
- Banquet
- Bert's buddy
- "Divine Comedy" poet
- Looks long and hard
- Sketched
- Tiny bit
- up; spends
- Net fabric
- Address abbr.

DOWN

- Drinks like Fido



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/13/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

STIR	AMASS	GAME
PANE	HUNCH	OXEN
ARTS	ELDER	GLAD
STOICAL	NUGGETS	
	SOD	REBEL
LOTTO	YES	NEWER
APES	RUG	RESIDE
BEA	SALUTES	DIE
ERRANT	LID	BECK
LASSO	MAC	PANTS
	SOBER	TEN
INSIPID	BANDAGE	
RIPS	NICER	ITAL
KNIT	GUARD	TRIM
SETS	EMPTY	SANS

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12/13/13

Schonbrun Column: No longer 'robot,' Smith reprograms outlook

ZACH SCHONBRUN

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FLORHAM PARK, N.J.

David Lee, the New York Jets' quarterbacks coach, spoke during minicamp about efforts by the rookie Geno Smith to learn a new playbook in a new system. This was before Smith was named the starter, when the staff was still evaluating him.

"If you all knew the volume of stuff in his head right now," Lee said.

Lee meant it as praise. He said he had been impressed by how quickly Smith had picked up an offense starkly different from the one he ran at West Virginia.

But the remark seems haunting now, 14 weeks into Smith's rocky first season in the NFL. On Wednesday, Smith seemed to admit that processing all that information had sometimes impeded his instinctual skills.

"I was playing like a robot," Smith said, adding: "Everything is not ideal on the field. Sometimes you've got to improvise."

Smith showed flashes of his ad-libbing ability in Sunday's 37-27 win over the Oakland Raiders, scrambling five times for 50 yards, including an 8-yard touchdown run in the third

quarter.

He played more loosely and confidently - partly because the Jets quickened their offensive pace, partly because he had receiver Jeremy Kerley back, but also partly because of advice relayed to him by the offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg: Have fun. Smith had a hard time doing that earlier in the season.

"I think I kind of got into this zone where I just tried to be way too perfect," Smith said. "And that's almost impossible to do at any level, especially as a rookie. There were times where I was so caught up in running the play and executing it to perfection that I didn't allow my natural ability to take over."

Before the Raiders game, Mornhinweg said playing more naturally was one of the aspects he had been emphasizing to Smith, similar to the way a golf coach might remind an out-of-sync player to let go and just swing the club.

"If you get locked into all the technique, fundamentals, reads, once the game starts, you can't be thinking about it," Mornhinweg said. "You have to turn it loose and let it go. I suspect that he'll be pretty good at that

down the stretch here."

Mornhinweg noted Smith's regression in looking off defenders, something he had improved early in the season. As other adjustments clouded his mind, that skill seemed to deteriorate. Yet reminding Smith to use his eyes better only made him think about that at the expense of another skill.

"Everybody goes through it just a little bit," Mornhinweg said. "You just want to strive for that perfection." □

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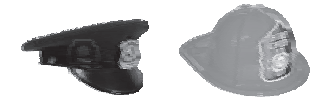
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Mild 2013 cuts Arctic a break, warming woes remain

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rapid melting in the Arctic eased up this year. But the government says global warming is still dramatically altering the top of the world, reducing the number of reindeer and shrinking snow and ice, while increasing certain fish and extending the growing season.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued its report card for the Arctic on Thursday, portraying 2013 as moderate compared with the roasting 2012.

Overall Arctic temperatures did not soar quite as high, and Greenland ice sheets and summer sea ice did not melt as much. "The Arctic caught a break, if you will, in 2013, but one year doesn't change the long-term trend toward a warmer Arctic," said report card editor Martin Jeffries, a University of Alaska geophysicist who is the science adviser to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

"The Arctic has shifted to a new normal," Jeffries said at the American Geophysical Union scientific conference in San Francisco, where the 136-page report card was released.



This handout photo provided by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows Arctic sea ice earlier this year. Associated Press

While 2013 looks a tad cool compared with the last six years, it is unusually warm compared with the 20th century, he said.

Central Alaska's summer was one of the warmest on record, coming months after its coldest April since 1924, NOAA said. Fairbanks experienced a record 36 days of more than 80 degrees. And snow cover in May and June was near record low levels in North America and broke a record for the least snow in Eurasia.

But one of the biggest climate change indicators, summer sea ice, was not as bad as expected. Sea ice in 2013 reached its sixth-lowest level in the three decades that NOAA has been keeping track. That's up from the lowest ever in 2012.

But the seven lowest levels have all occurred in the last seven years.

The 2013 figure "is simply natural variability," said National Snow and Ice Data Center director Mark Serreze, who wasn't part

of the NOAA report but praised it. "There is nothing about the year 2013 that provides any evidence that the Arctic is starting a path toward recovery."

He added: "Looking back 20 years from now, the world will be warmer and we'll have much less sea ice than today. We'll see that 2013 was just a temporary respite."

More ominous are long-term trends, NOAA's report card said.

Average Arctic temperatures have increased

3.6 degrees since the 1960s, rising twice as fast as the rest of the world. The growing season has lengthened by nearly a month since 1982.

Fish species are moving north, permafrost is melting, and shrubs are greening in ways that weren't seen before.

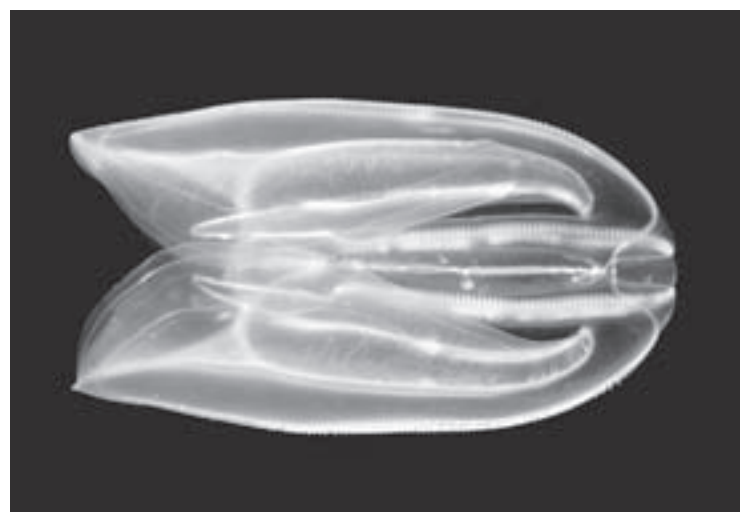
While some fish and musk-ox are doing better, other animals associated with Arctic, like polar bears and walrus, are not. The report cited severe declines in the size of reindeer herds.

"Many of the herds at the overall level are at all-time lows," said study co-author Michael Svoboda of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Jeffries and University of Virginia environmental scientist Howard Epstein, another study co-author, warned that changes in the Arctic reverberate around the globe.

White ice reflects solar energy, but because it is melting away, the oceans and the land are warming up more, Jeffries said.

He also cited a relatively new and evolving theory that is still dividing meteorologists. It says the loss of sea ice makes the jet stream meander and kink more, triggering more extreme weather in the Northern Hemisphere. □



This undated image provided by the University of Miami via the journal Science in December 2013 shows a *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, a species of comb jelly known as a sea walnut.

Associated Press

MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sponges are getting squeezed out of a distinctive role in evolution. A new study says

they don't represent the oldest branch of the animal family tree after all.

The DNA research gives the spot instead to comb jellies, a group of gelatinous

Sponges squeezed off oldest branch of animal tree

marine animals with names like the sea walnut and the sea gooseberry.

All animals evolved from a single ancestor and scientists want to know more about how that happened. More than half a billion years ago, long before humans appeared, the first split in the tree separated one lineage from all other animals. Traditionally, scientists have thought it was sponges.

The evidence in favor of comb jellies comes from deciphering the first complete genetic code from a member of this group.

Scientists were finally able to compare the full DNA codes from all the earliest branches. The genome of a sea walnut, a plankton-eating creature native to the western Atlantic Ocean, was reported online Thursday in the journal Science by Andreas Baxevanis of the National Human Genome Research Institute with co-authors there and elsewhere. The work supports some earlier indications that comb jellies were the first to branch off. Sorting out the early branching of the tree could help scientists

learn what the ancestor of all animals was like. But despite decades of study and the traditional view favoring sponges, there is plenty of disagreement about which early branch came first. The question is "devilishly difficult" to answer, and the new paper is probably not the last word, said Antonis Rokas of Vanderbilt University, who did not participate in the new work. "The results need to be taken seriously," he said, but "I'm pretty sure there will be other studies that suggest something else." □

Where's 'The Butler'? Globes Snubs and Surprises

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The long race to the Academy Awards is especially steep this year and it's no surprise that an ample list of notables were left empty-handed in the 71st annual Golden Globe nominations on Thursday.

Dominating the list were A-listers like Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Wolf of Wall Street") and Kate Winslet ("Labor Day"), who had top acting bids, while the movies of filmmaking gurus Steve McQueen ("12 Years a Slave") and David O. Russell ("American Hustle") landed in multiple categories, including best motion picture.

Yet the HFPA's annual list of contenders is typically questioned — after all, they did once nominate "The Tourist" and "Burlesque" — and this year is no exception. Here's a rundown of Thursday's snubs and surprises at the Golden Globe nominations:

SNUBS:

— "Lee Daniels' The Butler." Isn't Oprah supposed to have built-in value with the film community? While she was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild award for her role as Gloria Gaines in "Lee Daniels' The Butler" on Wednesday, she was left off of the Globes list. In fact, "The Butler" was entirely excluded from the nominee list, including Forest Whitaker in the title role. — "Fruitvale Station." Sure filmmaker Ryan Coogler and lead actor Michael B. Jordan are newcomers, but the true-life injustice tale was numbing and received a large amount of praise and buzz. However, the indie release may be a bit of a distant memory for the HFPA, since it was released last summer. Plus there are no big stars here, sans Octavia Spenser's appearance. But a complete out is quite a burn.

— "Saving Mr. Banks." A Disney movie about a Disney movie would seem like the perfect Hollywood wet kiss in the comedy or music section. And with Emma Thompson, who is nominated for best actress for her role as "Mary Poppins" author P.L. Tavers, and Tom

Hanks as Walt Disney, it's a wonder this one was overlooked. Perhaps the HFPA thought it was too niched.

— "The Wolf of Wall Street." Despite his prestige, Martin Scorsese was overlooked as best director, while Jonah Hill failed to nab a supporting actor nomination. — "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty."

No nod for Ben Stiller or mention of the film, an adaptation of a short story by James Thurber. The usual funny-man's impressive dramatic turn as long-time Life magazine photo editor failed to capture the HFPA.

— "Dallas Buyers Club." Both Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto were nominated in acting categories, but the critically acclaimed film was rebuffed by the foreign press. — "Lone Survivor." Mark Wahlberg, a favorite Hollywood everyman, stars in the Navy SEAL film about a botched mission in Afghanistan. But the actor and the wartime pic were unaccounted for.

— "Before Midnight." Julie Delpy scored an actress nomination for the raw romantic comedy, but the acting abilities of her co-star, Ethan Hawke, were overlooked, as was film itself.

— James Gandolfini, "Enough Said." Julia-Louis Dreyfus, the leading lady of the film, cleaned up on Globe nominations, receiving bids in both film and television categories. But no posthumous nod was given to the late star of the "Sopranos."

— HBO's "Boardwalk Empire" and "Game of Thrones." Neither show, both of which developed a cult-like fan base, made the cut. Maybe HBO should rethink its approach to killing off some of our favorite characters.

— "New Girl." While Zooey Deschanel was nominated for her performance on the series, the popular comedy about a set of roommates living in downtown Los Angeles did not make the bill.

— "Homeland." Both the show, which premiered in 2011, and its actors have received multiple nominations over the years. But it was completely ab-

sent from this year's list. Instead new shows like Netflix's "House of Cards" and Showtime's "Masters of Sex" freshened up the drama series and acting categories.

SURPRISES:

— "Philomena." Though it has been well-received, it seemed like it might get lost in the shuffle. But the HFPA, which ranked it in the best picture category, loves Judi Dench.

— "Rush." Even Ron Howard was shocked at this best picture nomination. "It's really more than I expected by a longshot," he said Thursday morning. The film didn't fare well at the box office, but it was a unique — and big budget — take on the Formula One subculture.



This film image released by The Weinstein Company shows Forest Whitaker as Cecil Gaines in a scene from "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

Associated Press

— "Brooklyn Nine-Nine." The Fox comedy, still in its first season, garnered two nominations. The show's star, Andy Samberg, is nominated in the comedic

actor category and the show itself is in the running for best comedy series. Guess you can never underestimate the power of an SNL alum. □

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During 'Scandal' hiatus, Morton will await fate

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's going to be a long, cold winter for the gladiators, and perhaps even longer for Joe Morton, who plays the debatably diabolical dad Rowan Pope to his political-fixer daughter, Olivia (Kerry Washington). After the "Scandal" episode airing Thursday (10 p.m. EST) on ABC, the series won't return with fresh installments until late February — a scheme to avoid holiday-time ratings doldrums and also to dodge competition from the upcoming Winter Olympics. When last we left "Scandal," Sally had killed her husband, Huck had tortured Quinn, and Liv was sending her evil mama to a continent far, far away. Oddly enough, Morton said that wacky world feels like home. "I was looking (to play) a really smart bad guy," said the 66-year-old actor, whose Hollywood credits include director John



This photo provided by ABC shows Joe Morton, left, and Tony Goldwyn, in a scene from the TV series, "Scandal," Thursdays, (10:00-11:00 p.m., ET) on the ABC Television Network. Associated Press

Sayles' revered art-house classic "The Brother From Another Planet" (1984) and the blockbuster "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991). But the play's the thing for the Bronx-born Morton, a Tony-nominated Broadway vet who frequently has returned to work on the stage.

"What is wonderful about working on 'Scandal' is that, I believe, almost every member of the cast working on that show are all theater actors," he noted. "So what that gives us all is, certainly, a very familiar vocabulary, so that we can work much more efficiently with one another." □



This August 2012 file photo released by GoldieBlox, Inc., shows the toy items from "GoldieBlox and the Spinning Machine," photographed in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Beastie Boys fire back over toy company parody

OAKLAND, California (AP) — The Beastie Boys are firing back after an Oakland toy company sued them over a video parody of their song "Girls." The two surviving members of the rap trio filed a lawsuit of their own Tuesday in Oakland federal court claiming toy company GoldieBlox unfairly used the popular song as a jingle to sell its products. GoldieBlox filed the first

lawsuit last month seeking a court order allowing it to use the online video parody. The video shows young girls singing about engineering. The company said it filed the lawsuit after the band threatened it with litigation over the parody. The video has since been removed from YouTube. GoldieBlox claims the parody wasn't used to sell its product and that it has done nothing illegal. □

No Grammy competition in Shelton-Lambert household



This March 5, 2012 file photo shows country singers Blake Shelton, left, and his wife, Miranda Lambert at Cosmopolitan Magazine's "Fun Fearless Males and Females of 2012" awards in New York.

NICOLE EVATT
Associated Press
UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Blake Shelton likes his odds when it comes to this

Associated Press
 year's Grammy Awards. Shelton's "Mine Would Be You" and Miranda Lambert's "Mama's Broken Heart" are both nominat-

ed for best country solo performance, doubling his chances of nabbing a golden gramophone in his home. "I hope one of us wins that thing because I want one in my house for sure," Shelton said in an interview. "The thing about an actual Grammy is if you set it up high enough on the shelf people can't read that plaque, and if somebody comes in the house and they're like, 'You got a Grammy.' It's like, 'Yeah. Oh yeah I got one.' And they don't actually read that it's to Miranda." Shelton has yet to win a Grammy; Lambert, his wife, won her first in 2011. Both of their tracks are also nominated for best country song, though the singers didn't earn nominations because they didn't write the tunes.

Shelton made the comments Tuesday while promoting "The Voice," where his three-time winning streak came to an end when his final teammate, Cole Vosbury, was eliminated. The country star is looking ahead to the Grammys, where he's up for best country album for his eighth album, "Based on a True Story..." He will battle Taylor Swift, Jason Aldean, Tim McGraw and newcomer Kacey Musgraves in the latter category. "It's just awesome to be included and thought of in that group of artists," he said. "This is a window of time that will go by quickly and I know that and I want to enjoy it." Swift and Musgraves lead among country acts with four nominations at the awards show, to no surprise. But country music

Grammy snubs included Luke Bryan, who had a best-selling album with "Crash My Party," and Georgia Florida Line, who topped the charts with the multiplatinum, Nelly-assisted hit, "Cruise." "Every year there's artists that I think should have a Grammy nomination and yeah, I'm surprised that Luke wasn't nominated. I'm surprised that I think Florida Georgia Line wasn't nominated. It's surprising, but you know, there's always next year," said Shelton. "If I wasn't in there I'd be really upset, but since I'm in there I really don't give a crap about anybody else," he joked. The Grammy Awards will air live on CBS from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Jan. 26. NBC's "The Voice" will crown a winner Tuesday. □

Woodrow Wilson, Stud Muffin



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON - On Thursday night, we sat around, talking about the lawyer and constitutional expert in the White House, a leader both didactic and charming, peacenik and hawk; the Ivy League academic who improbably ascended to the Oval Office on brains, not beholden to anyone; the Democrat, eager to fight economic inequality and help the 99 percent, who would give a government bailout if he had to; the dapper man with large ears, elegant speeches he wrote himself, a love of golf.

We sat around talking about Woodrow Wilson.

And it turns out that the League of Nations was not the most intriguing thing about Wilson. The love of women was.

A. Scott Berg, the author of "Wilson," was relating the story of how the widowed president wooed Washingtonian Edith Galt with flowers and private romantic meetings reminiscent of the widowed president wooing a Washington lobbyist in the movie "The American President."

"She was widowed very young," Berg said of the buxom Galt. "She had not been in love with her first husband and so along comes Woodrow Wilson, the great lover. I'm telling you, she didn't call him Tiger just because he went to Princeton."

The author, sounding a bit gobsmacked, continued: "Wilson wrote thousands of letters to his first wife, several hundred to his second. These are the most passionate love letters I've ever read. They're not pornographic, so you don't have to run out to look for that, but they are incredibly romantic, often sexual, very emotional, deeply, deeply emotional letters. At a certain point, they get sickening. They're just too much."

After 10 years of marriage to Ellen, his first wife, he wrote her: "Are you prepared for the storm of love making with which you will be assailed?" When he should have been focused on the sinking of the Lusitania, he was addled with gushy courting of the younger Edith. Which may explain why relentless playboy Leonardo DiCaprio, who made waves with Kate Winslet in "Titanic" and made trouble with Carey Mulligan in "Gatsby," is interested in playing Wilson (a name probably more familiar to modern moviegoers as Tom Hanks' volleyball confidant).

The Hollywood Reporter re-

vealed that DiCaprio had optioned Berg's book to produce a movie and star as the 28th president. (Wilson's wife, Edith, who stealthily took the reins after Wilson had a stroke, must count as 28 1/2.)

Before the discussion with Chris Dodd, head of the Motion Picture Association of America, and Jane Harman, president of the Woodrow Wilson Center, Dodd showed some clips from the 1944 movie "Wilson," with Alexander Knox playing the president.

"The picture was a huge bomb," said Berg, who lives in Hollywood. "The film was made by Darryl F. Zanuck, who was one of the greatest producers in Hollywood history. It was the most expensive movie that had been made by Hollywood at that point." Berg said it cost \$3 million, which may pay the catering bill now.

Despite the superficial similarities to the other smarty-pants in the White House now, Wilson was better in one way - he haunted the President's Room in the Capitol to keep a sustained dialogue going with members of Congress - and far worse in others.

As one young woman from the Wilson Center put it, "History has judged Wilson as a racist and a sexist."

As the world mourned Nelson Mandela, Berg had to agree that the Virginia-born Wilson was a racist, even if he was "a centrist" for his time.

"He made statements, no matter what age they were uttered in, they are racist in nature," the author said. "More important, he famously brought Jim Crow back to Washington. They were just starting to integrate the Postal Service, the Treasury Department, and it was Wilson's Cabinet members, specifically McAdoo, his Treasury secretary, and Burleson, his postmaster general, who insisted that you can't have integration in federal offices. The truth is, Wilson's Cabinet was largely made up of Southern racists."

And he did not want to cross the block of Southern senators and congressmen he needed to get his progressive "New Freedom" agenda passed. When he was president of Princeton, Wilson worked to curb elitism, trying to get rid of eating clubs, but he did not work to curb racism. When a poor student at a Virginia Baptist college wrote beseeching to come, Wilson answered "that it is altogether inadvisable for a colored man to enter Princeton." He made jokes in black dialect and felt that interracial marriage would "degrade the white nations."

"For me," Berg said, "the worst thing Woodrow Wilson did as president was what he didn't do. That was in 1919 when the soldiers came home from the war. Many of them were African-Americans. They came home thinking: 'This is our moment. We've lost brothers, we have shed blood, this is the time we have shown we are full-blooded Americans.'"



Nelson Mandela And The Communists



BILL KELLER
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In 2011, British historian Stephen Ellis published a paper concluding that Nelson Mandela had been a member of the South African Communist Party - indeed, a member of its governing Central Committee. Although Mandela's African National Congress and the Communist Party were openly allied against apartheid, Mandela and the ANC have always denied that the hero of South Africa's liberation was himself a party member. But Ellis, drawing on testimony of former party members and newly available archives, made a convincing case that Mandela joined the party around 1960, several years before he was sentenced to life in prison for conspiring to overthrow the government.

Does it matter? The news excited some critics and historical revisionists, who claimed it exposed the ANC as a Stalinist front. ("Saint" Mandela? Not So Fast!" exulted one right-wing blog.) It probably stirred a sense of vindication among Americans who endorsed their government's Cold War support of the fiercely anti-Communist apartheid regime. Ellis is no apologist for white rule - he occupies a university chair in Amsterdam named for another hero of the South African resistance, Archbishop Desmond Tutu - but he contends that the affiliation with the Communists shaped the ANC's ideology in ways that endure, ominously, to this day.

"Today, the ANC officially claims

still to be at the first stage ... of a two-phase revolution," Ellis told me in an email exchange. "This is a theory obtained directly from Soviet thinking."

Indeed, the remnants of Communist protocol and jargon - "comrades" and "counterrevolutionaries" - live on in the platform and demeanor of South Africa's ruling party. My own perspective on this question, shaped by covering the Soviet Union from 1986 to 1991 and South Africa from 1992 to 1995, is respectful of scholarship, but also wary of its limits. Both in Gorbachev's Russia and in transitional South Africa, I realized that what people profess at party plenums and codify in party records is not always a reliable guide to what they will do, or even what they actually believe.

But Mandela's Communist affiliation is not just a bit of history's flotsam. It doesn't justify the gleeful red baiting, and it certainly does not diminish a heroic legacy, but it is significant in a few respects. First, Mandela's brief membership in the South African Communist Party, and his long-term alliance with more devout Communists, say less about his ideology than about his pragmatism. He was at various times a black nationalist and a nonracialist, an opponent of armed struggle and an advocate of violence, a hothead and the calmest man in the room, a consumer of Marxist tracts and an admirer of Western democracy, a close partner of Communists and, in his presidency, a close partner of South Africa's powerful capitalists.

The early collaboration of the ANC with the Communists was a marriage of convenience for a movement that had few friends. The South African Communist Party and its patrons in Russia and China were a source of money and weapons for the largely feckless armed struggle, and for many, it meant solidarity with a cause larger than South Africa.

But at important junctures - in negotiations to end white rule, then

in the writing of a new constitution, and finally in governing - the faction of nationalizers and vengeance seekers lost out to the compromisers. In the talks that set the stage for democracy, Joe Slovo, the longtime leader of the South African Communists and a man fluent in revolutionary rhetoric, was the most ardent advocate of sharing power with the white regime. The prevailing doctrine was whatever worked to advance the cause of a South Africa governed by South Africans. This was true of Mandela and equally true of his successor, Thabo Mbeki. The current president, Jacob Zuma, seems to have no ideology at all except self-enrichment.

In one of his several trials, Mandela was asked if he was a Communist. "If by Communist you mean a member of the Communist Party and a person who believes in the theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, and who adheres strictly to the discipline of the party, I did not become a Communist," he replied. The answer was both evasive and perfectly accurate.

Perhaps the most important and lasting personal effect of the South African Communist Party on Mandela was that it made him, or helped make him, a committed nonracialist. The ANC in its formative years admitted only blacks. For a long time, the Communist Party was the only partner in the movement that included whites, Indians and mixed-race members. That relationship is one of the main reasons Mandela cited for his rejection of black nationalism and his insistence that multiracialism remain at the heart of the ANC ethic.

In the end, of course, the greatest favor Communism performed for Mandela and the ANC was collapsing. Once the Soviet bloc had disintegrated and China had gone capitalist, the last white rulers of South Africa could no longer pose as necessary allies on the right side of the Cold War. They knew the game was up.

Bedtime Under Glass in New Canaan, Connecticut

GUY TREBAY

© 2013 New York Times

NEW CANAAN, Conn. - The weekend crowds blocking Ponus Ridge Road in December of 1948 were in a holiday mood, The New York Times reported. Hundreds from "this conservative old community of early colonial homes" turned out to watch workers put the finishing touches on a house few could have predicted would become a modernist classic.

"Startled, uninvited visitors tramp about to view the results with mingled expressions of awe, won-

der and indignation," The Times wrote. "They agree that nothing like it ever was seen in these parts." The structure was, of course, Philip Johnson's Glass House, a building that cemented the reputation of an architect whose varied gifts would eventually gain him every accolade in his profession, and that itself stands as perhaps the best-known example of domestic modernism. Years before his death, Johnson deeded his 49-acre property and its

various buildings to the National Trust for Historic Preservation; he continued living there until he died in his sleep, just shy of 100, in 2005. Since then, the Trust has worked to transform the place from a seldom-visited architectural shrine - one of only two modernist structures in a portfolio of 2,000 - to what Henry Urbach, the Glass House director, recently termed "a place of experimentation."

It is embracing a belief put forward by Vincent Scully, Sterling Professor Emeritus of the History of published by the high-end Texas retailer since 1926. For \$30,000, the catalog noted, "you and up to ten of your nearest and dearest" could be welcomed to dine at Johnson's Glass House, in an evening designed to include a tour of the grounds and a visit to the sculpture and painting galleries that Johnson and his partner, the curator David G. Whitney, had created and filled with large and important collections of contemporary art.

Only after the wineglasses were drained, the candles snuffed and guests sent

an art historian and Johnson scholar, explained recently by telephone from Miami.

"Philip thought guests were nuisances," Lewis said. "So unless you were dating Philip Johnson, you probably never spent the night." Mine was a chaste sleepover, a trial run put on offer by Urbach, whose only other gauge of how the house works for overnight stays came last May, when the architects Ricardo Scofidio and Elizabeth Diller crashed there after a staged Glass House conversation. Far from being

tive.

There is the cylindrical brick service core housing a spartan bathroom and hearth. There is the blocky plaster and papier-mâché model of Elie Nadelman's 1930 sculpture, "Two Circus Women," the imposing full-scale version of which looms over the lobby of the Metropolitan Opera House. There is the dour 1648 Poussin depicting the "Funeral of Phocion." There is the endlessly imitated butterscotch leather daybed designed by Mies van der Rohe for the German Pavilion of the International



Philip Johnson's Glass House in New Canaan, Conn., in December, 2013. The house that cemented Johnson's reputation and is considered a modernist classic was open for an overnight stay for \$30,000 in the Fantasy Gifts section of the annual Neiman Marcus Christmas Book. (Randy Harris/The New York Times)

der and indignation," The Times wrote. "They agree that nothing like it ever was seen in these parts." The structure was, of course, Philip Johnson's Glass House, a building that cemented the reputation of an architect whose varied gifts would eventually gain him every accolade in his profession, and that itself stands as perhaps the best-known example of domestic modernism. Years before his death, Johnson deeded his 49-acre property and its

Art in Architecture at Yale. At the Glass House, Scully once asserted, Johnson had created both a great monument and the most sustained cultural salon the United States has ever seen.

And that, in a roundabout way, is how I came to be waking in Philip Johnson's bed.

"Be Our Guest," read the text accompanying a two-page photograph in the Fantasy Gifts section of the annual Neiman Marcus Christmas Book,

out onto the winding roads of New Canaan, though, would the Fantasy Gift buyer experience what some would consider the best part of the evening. They would have the Glass House to themselves.

As it happens, this almost never occurred for guests during Johnson's lifetime. True, there was the time he lent the house to clients for a weekend, taking up temporary residence in an adjacent structure.

"But he said, 'Once and never again,'" Hilary Lewis,

scholarly or serious, in other words, the point of my visit was pragmatic, as a bed-tester.

"We want to know how it feels to be in the house," Urbach said.

At a little less than 1,800 square feet, the scale of the Glass House is modest enough that bullet-point highlights can be registered with ease. There is the elegant glass envelope itself, and the pure symmetry that, flouting strict modernist tenets, Mies van der Rohe derided as decora-

al Exposition in Barcelona in 1929.

And everywhere, of course, there are the views.

Alone in the house that evening, I busied myself recording details at random. I snooped in cabinets and opened drawers, because for the moment I could. I tipped open a small malachite box whose inventoried contents included a black-and-white passport photo of Kirstein, a Singapore penny, a Canadian dime, a pack of matches and some rolling papers. □